

"In the Latter Days, the sun shall rise from the West"

Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace and blessings of Allah be on him)



## The Dajjal / Antichrist

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# The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community



Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (1835-1908)



AHMADIYYA  
MUSLIM COMMUNITY

*United States of America*

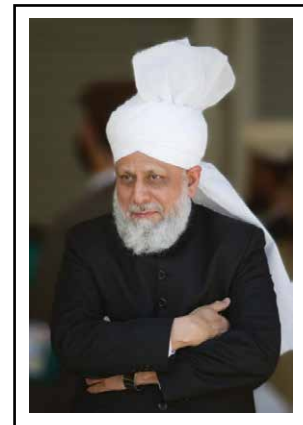
The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community is a religious organization, international in its scope, with branches in 195 countries in Africa, North America, South America, Asia, Australia, and Europe. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community was established in 1889 by Hadrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad(as) (1835-1908) in Qadian, a small and remote village in the Punjab province of India. He claimed to be the expected reformer of the latter days, the Awaited One of the world community of religions (The Mahdi and Messiah).

The Movement he started is an embodiment of the benevolent message of Islam – peace, universal brotherhood, and submission to the Will of God – in its pristine purity.

Hadrat Ahmad(as) proclaimed Islam as the religion of man: “The religion of the people of the right path” (98:6). The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community was created under divine guidance with the objective to rejuvenate Islamic moral and spiritual values. It encourages interfaith dialogue, diligently defends Islam and tries to correct misunderstandings about Islam in the West. It advocates peace, tolerance, love and understanding among followers of different faiths. It firmly believes in and acts upon the Qura’nic teaching:

“There is no compulsion in religion” (2:257).

It strongly rejects violence and terrorism in any form and for any reason. After the passing of its founder, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has been headed by his elected successors. The present Head of the Community, Hadrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, was elected in 2003. His official title is Khalifatul Masih V or Fifth Successor of the Promised Messiah(as).



Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad,  
Khalifatul Masih V (aba)

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# The Muslim Sunrise

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Muslims follow the name of God's prophets with the prayer *alaehis salaam* or 'may peace be upon him,' and for the Holy Prophet Muhammad, *sallallahu alaehi wasallam* or 'may peace and blessings of God be upon him.' Companions of prophets and righteous personalities who have passed away are saluted by *radhi-Allahu anhu/a* or 'may Allah be pleased with him/her.' While such salutations sometimes are not set out in the text for readability, we encourage readers to offer these prayers as if set out in full.

Dr. Mufti Muhammad Sadiq(rah) (1872-1957) was the first Ahmadiyya Muslim missionary to arrive in America. In 1921, he founded the Muslim Sunrise, which stands today as the longest running Muslim publication in America. The magazine seeks to open discussions on Islam and topics relating to religion in general. It highlights the role of Islam in an ever changing global society. It provides a platform for public opinion on contemporary issues and presenting their solutions from an Islamic perspective.



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### Acronyms for salutations used in this publication

sa:	Sallallāhu 'Alaihi Wa Sallam (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)
as:	'Alaihis-Salām (may peace be upon him)
ra:	Radiyallahu 'Anhu/'Anha (may Allah be pleased with him/her)
rh:	Radimahullāhu Ta'ālā (may Allah shower His mercy on him)
aba:	Ayyadahullāhu Ta'ālā Bi-Nasrihil-'Azīz (may Allah support him with His mighty help)

Verse numbers in the references from the Holy Qur'ān count Tasmiya at the beginning of a chapter as the first verse.



# FROM THE HOLY QUR'AN

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ ①

قَالُوا يَا ذَا الْقُرْنَيْنِ إِنَّ يَأْجُوجَ  
وَمَاجُوجَ مُفْسِدُونَ فِي الْأَرْضِ فَهَلْ  
نَجْعَلُ لَكَ خَرْجًا عَلَى أَنْ تَجْعَلَ بَيْنَنَا  
وَبَيْنَهُمْ سَدًّا ②

قَالَ مَا مَكَّنِّي فِيهِ رَبِّي خَيْرٌ فَأَعِينُونِي  
بِقُوَّةٍ أَجْعَلْ بَيْنَكُمْ وَبَيْنَهُمْ رَدْمًا ③

In the name of Allah, the Gracious, the Merciful.

They said, 'O Dhu'l Qarnain, verily Gog and Magog are creating disorder in the earth; shall we then pay thee tribute on condition that thou set up a barrier between us and them.' He replied, "The power with which my Lord has endowed me about this is better, but you may help me with physical strength. I will set up between you and them a rampart." (18:95-96)



# IN THE WORDS OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH<sup>(as)</sup>

## True meaning of some Ahadith concerning Dajjal

(*"A'ina-e-Kamalat-e-Islam," Roohani Khazain, Vol. 5, pp 344-345.*)

Explaining the true meaning of some Ahadith [Sayings of the Holy Prophet(sa)] concerning Dajjal, where it is mentioned that Dajjal would claim to be a prophet as well as God, Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani (as), Promised Messiah and Mahdi, in his book *"A'ina Kamalat-e-Islam"* writes as follows:

"It is written that Dajjal (anti-Christ) shall claim to be a prophet and also to be God. This is exactly what they (the Christians) have done. Their claim to prophethood was exhibited in this way that they meddled with the words of God on their own, introduced innovative rules, and made alterations and amendments in a manner that only a Prophet would do who is authorized to do so. They rewrote the Commandments (of God) at will, created new creeds, and designed innovative ways of worship. They committed all these excessive trespasses freely as if God's revelation had come authorizing them to do so. This much tampering with the Books of God was, in a way, asserting prophethood. And when their philosophers decided to have full control over God's works, they asserted to be God. Their deliberations show that they are busy, day and night, how to bring down rain, and how to conceive a baby by artificially injecting sperms in a woman. They believe that Divine decree is nothing; due to our own shortcomings when we fail in achieving something, it is named 'predestination'. They say that the reason various acts are attributed to God is that in earlier time people were unaware of the physical causes of what took place, and when human planning failed in achieving something, the failure was assigned to God and Divine destiny. They think that these erroneous thoughts will go away of their own when people gain full knowledge of the process of natural causes. This is why we have to judge if such thoughts of European and American philosophers are a claim to Godhead or not! Obviously they are anxious about how to raise the dead. In America, one group of Christian scientists is busy in conducting such experiments, and the industry to bring down rain is already established. Their motive is that, instead of praying to Lord God for rain, or calling upon God with special plea for water, people should submit an application to their government asking for rain over a specific field. In Europe they are trying to invent some device to inject sperms in a woman's womb so that she may conceive a child, and also that people should have a choice between having a boy or a girl.



They want to insert a man's sperms through a needle in a woman's womb to make her pregnant. Now, we have to think if their motive is to act like God or something else! What is mentioned in the Ahadith ([Sayings of the Holy Prophet(sa)]) that Dajjal shall first claim to be a prophet and then to be God ... its correct meaning is that his claiming to be a prophet purports that he would attempt to engage in works of prophethood; and his claiming to be God implies that he would try to replicate the works of God as it is now evident through the actions of Christians. Some of them are distorting the Bible in such a manner as if it's a prophet's work, one who is receiving revelations from God; and the other party is meddling around so much with God's work as if it wants to take over Godhead."

# EDITORIAL

## SPRING 2016

There are prophecies about the appearance of Antichrist in the Bible. There is also mention of powers in the latter days which are named as Gog and Magog. In the Islamic traditions, there are also detailed prophecies about the Antichrist, named as Dajjal. Holy Qur'an talks about the powers of Yajooj and Majooj which are the Arabic names for Gog and Magog.

In the latter days, all these forces are prophesized to be at work. Their influence and power would be unprecedented. All other worldly powers would not be able to defeat them. While Gog and Magog refer to the military powers trying to conquer each other, Antichrist represents forces of ideology against God. Dajjal would be so deceitful that truth and falsehood would be impossible to distinguish.

It is also prophesied in the Islamic traditions that it is the Messiah who would defeat the ideology and influence of Dajjal.

Founder of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community who claimed to be the fulfillment of coming of the messiah in the latter days identified the Dajjal and through his writings sowed the seed of destroying the philosophy and ideology of Dajjal. It is a matter of time that the world would acknowledge the superiority of logical arguments against the evil and deceitful ideology of the Antichrist. Commandments of God given to thousands of Prophets over the ages would replace the inferior man-made philosophies which have brought the world to a violent, selfish and spiritually void societies.

It is essential for us to understand what Dajjal or Antichrist represents in order to protect ourselves against its evil designs. In the final analysis, it would only take place through the Imam of this age, as prophesized, and accepting the Chief of the prophets, the Holy Prophet Muhammad(sa).

In this issue, we have presented various aspects of the prophecies about the powers that are around us in our age, the latter days. Hopefully, our readers would be enlightened and prepare themselves to seek protection of God to safeguard their spirituality and see the days of brighter future through acceptance of the 2nd advent of the Messiah.

### SPECIAL NOTE:

*There is a change of Editor of Muslim Sunrise from the next issue (Summer 2016). Imam Mubasher Ahmad has been given the responsibility of being the Chief Editor. I had the privilege of being the editor of this longest running Muslim magazine in America for the last ten years. During this period, I received tremendous cooperation and assistance from writers, Board Members and others who helped in many other ways. I am thankful to all of them. I will be of some help in the future as a Consulting Editor. I wish all the best to the new Editor and pray that Muslim Sunrise would continue with better and brighter future, Inshallah.*

*(Falahud Din Shams)*







# Friday Sermon Synopsis

Delivered by Hazrat Mirzā Masroor Ahmad  
On March 4, 2016

Morals of Promised Messiah  
(on whom be peace)

Today's Friday sermon was a continuation of short stories and fables with morals that Hazrat Musleh Mau'ood (may Allah be pleased with him) had recalled the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) relating to him. These ancient stories from the Indian sub-continent are being related today by virtue of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace). Had they not be written down in Jama'at literature they would have been long forgotten where as owing to their mention in the Friday sermon they are now translated in several languages.

Some of these tales may appear to be humorous but there is always a moral to the story. The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) used to relate that a gardener's wife had two daughters. One was married in a family of potters and the other in a family of gardeners. Each time it became cloudy she would panic and say one of her two daughters would suffer. On asking she would explain that if it rained the daughter married in potters' family would suffer and if it did not rain the daughter married in gardeners' family would suffer. It is rained the clay pottery of the first daughter would be damaged and if it did not rain the gardens tended by the second daughter's family would be effected. Likewise, the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) related that two individuals from Qadian had some dispute. Their friends tried to reconcile them but they both insisted to take the matter to the court run by the British. They were both followers of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) and they both requested him to pray for them. Faced with a dilemma the Promised Messiah said he prayed that may the one who is on truth win. Requesting prayers in this way is like the story of the mother who feared that rain or no rain would affect one or the other daughter of hers because someone had to lose out!

It should not be assumed from this account that if people took matters to the courts in the lifetime of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) it is warrantable to do so now. Seeking justice is warrantable, yes, but it is always better if matters can be resolved with mutual agreement and out of court.

Hazrat Musleh Mau'ood (may Allah be pleased with him) said kindness and courtesy to parents is obligatory on everyone but some young people do not give parents the due respect and do not fulfil duties towards parents. If they reach high office some people are hesitant to meet their parents of humble background.

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) related that a Hindu went through hardship to provide higher education to his son. The son went into civil service and reached a high rank. The father went to visit the son at a time when he was in the company of some lawyers and barristers. The father was in his unkempt rustic clothing. Someone did not like his appearance and asked who the dishevelled person was. The son was embarrassed and made an excuse as to who the father was which angered the father and he gathered his clothing and left. The son's companions were not impressed at him and said had he told them he was his father they would have accorded him due respect.

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) used to say that one should not attend an event merely to listen to such and such good speaker but should see what the discourse is about and if it can be availed of. The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) used to relate that once a preacher gave a lecture on a subject full of compassion.



A rustic farmer came by and stopped to listen to the preacher. While the audience was unmoved by what the preacher said the farmer started weeping. The preacher presumed that his speech had so affected the farmer that it had moved him to tears. Addressing his audience he said different hearts feel differently. On the one hand are you listening to me for so long and on the other hand is this man who has been moved to tears after listening to me. So, he asked the farmer exactly what in the lecture had moved him so. The farmer replied that the day before his buffalo's calf had died making exactly the same sounds the preacher was making, so when he heard him, he remembered the calf and it moved him to tears. This left the preacher embarrassed and mortified.

It is a favour of God on us that we have been enabled to accept the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) otherwise we too may have been part of the world where Pirs make a living in the name of Islam. The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) used to say about one such person that he used to presume himself to be at a very high spiritual station. He went to one of his followers and demanded his tax. The man said times were very hard, there was drought and he had nothing to give. Yet the Pir was unrelenting and eventually made the poor man sell something to pay him.

Hazrat Musleh Mau'ood (may Allah be pleased with him) said that the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) explained that the Holy Qur'an has addressed all the principles of medicine and it contains the treatment of all worldly illnesses. Hazrat Musleh Mau'ood(ra) said it was possible that his personal spiritual knowledge had not yet reached the stage, but he could say this much that we were not in need of anything outside of the Holy Qur'an.

Some people assume that having acquired any given knowledge they do not need any experience or any advice relating to it. Whereas it is vital to be mindful that experience is important in conjunction with knowledge. A physician's knowledge of medicine is not complete unless he practices it. The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) used to relate that a highly academic physician went to the court of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh and met with his Muslim advisor and asked him to recommend to Ranjeet Singh to meet him. The advisor felt suspicious that he may lose his place in the Maharaja's eyes if the physician had too much influence. He recommended to Ranjeet Singh that he should meet the physician as he was a highly academic person. Ranjeet Singh said, very well, but is he experienced in his field? The advisor replied, he will have experience by virtue of you. Ranjeet Singh understood the situation and said, is Ranjeet Singh the only one left for him to gain experience? Give him some award and send him off.

If knowledge is not backed up with experience it does not make one an expert on any given subject and if anyone presumes to be an expert just by gaining knowledge they will

get the response that Ranjeet Singh gave. It is also very important for the general progression of the Jama'at that young people gain experience after attaining knowledge of modern subjects. Some issues need to be tackled which can only be done through experience.

After accepting Ahmadiyyat, we can safeguard our faith by keeping a strong and constant connection with the administration of Jama'at and with Khilafat as well as utilise those means which keep us connected even when we are geographically far away. Hazrat Musleh Mau'ood (may Allah be pleased with him) said there can be no progression in Jama'at work unless one is connected to the main source. He gave example of his time and said newspapers were a way to keep in touch. He said he could address ladies at Jalsa via public address system (loudspeaker). Similarly newspapers keep those who are far away connected to community. The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) used to say that Al Hakm and Badr (newspapers) were his two arms. In the lifetime of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) community newspapers were very popular among the members of the Jama'at and although the Jama'at was few in numbers sale of Badr was extensive. Even uneducated Ahmadi would purchase the newspaper and give it to others to read as Tabligh. One uneducated Ahmadi who drove a horse carriage always purchased Al Hakm and when he felt his passengers were gentle people he would give them the paper and ask to read it to him. Thus he introduced his passengers to Ahmadiyyat. It is said that although he was not educated, during his time he was the source of the highest number of bai'ats.

Times have changed and now there are so many more resources available. For one, every Ahmadi should instil the practice of watching MTA for personal tarbiyyat as well as for forging a strong connection with Khilafat. We should tell friends about the Jama'at website. Many people write in to say that ever since they started regularly watching at least the Friday sermon on MTA they have strengthened their faith and feel their connection with Jama'at has also become stronger. MTA and the Jama'at web site are both very good resources for tabligh and also resources for tarbiyyat of Ahmadi and connecting them to Khilafat and the Jama'at.

Some people are mindful to better themselves especially as regards offering Salat. However, they become negligent about this when keeping company with those who are negligent. That is why it is important to have ties with those who are spiritually strong. In particular attention of Ahmadi in Rabwah and Qadian was drawn to this matter. They have local branches in close proximity and should fill and populate mosques. People who visit Rabwah from abroad write in to say that attention needs to be paid to observance of Salat in Rabwah.

In explanation of how the company one keeps can effect one, the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) related that once a mentally ill/manic person grabbed hold of Galen (Greek physician). Once he let go of Galen, Galen asked for some bloodletting. When asked why he wanted to have bleeding performed on him, Galen replied that the way the mentally ill person came to him it appeared that he too had some element of mania in him which the manic person was attracted to.

Rather than be inclined towards people who are indolent about Salat one should be inclined towards active people and when the number of active number will increase, even the indolent will be drawn towards being active.

Once a man came to an assembly of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) and demanded that he would accept him if he showed a miracle. The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) replied God is not an acrobat and does not put on shows. Everything that is from God is replete with wisdom. The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) asked the person what benefit had he availed from earlier miracles that he was now in need of a fresh one? This is simply how obstinate people are, when they do not want to accept they follow in the footsteps of Satan and make such demands. These frivolous, pointless demands have no value in the sight of God or for Prophets of God. There are numerous signs for those who are pious.

When Hazrat Musleh Mau'ood (may Allah be pleased with him) initiated the scheme Tehrik e Jadid (when literally translated it means the new scheme) some people raised objections (owing to the word jadid) that perhaps it was a new-fangled scheme. He explained that this scheme was in fact an ancient scheme and was nothing new. He said the use of the word jaded (new/modern) was for specific purpose. By way of example he said when a doctor treats someone for a long period of time the ailing person thinks the treatment is not working. The doctor suggests to the patient that he would give them something new. When he fact all he does is add some new element to the previous medicine and as such rightfully refers to it as new medicine.

Once an elderly lady came to the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) complaining of a prolonged bout of malaria. He advised her to take quinine but she complained that if she took even a quarter of a quinine tablet she suffered from week long fever. The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) realised that she was not prepared to take quinine. In India quinine was/is referred to with a particular name, a word which also has other connotations. So the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) gave her quinine to take and gave her a different name which meant the same as the name with which quinine was referred to. The elderly

lady happily took the medicine and later reported that only two or three tablets had cooled her off from the illness.

Hazrat Musleh Mau'ood (may Allah be pleased with him) said similarly he named a scheme or a practice which was ancient and simply called it as 'new' or 'modern' (Jadid) but people started criticising that he had started something new! Those with hypocritical tendencies said new-fangled ideas were being introduced and the teachings of the Holy Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be on him) were being digressed.

In the lifetime of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) a beggar used to beg on the streets of Qadian. When he saw someone approaching from a little distance he would start his bid and beg a certain amount. As the person approached him, the beggar would bring his bid down and gradually lower it still as the person passed him and walked off in the other direction.

Hazrat Musleh Mau'ood (may Allah be pleased with him) said those serving Jama'at should also have this mind-set to obtain something or the other. If to start off there are just the odd person, gradually with effort they will increase. We should do our tasks and see what the results are! When even worldly matters are not without results how it can be that moral and spiritual tasks will be without results? Those with erroneous thinking say we do what we do but the result is in God's hand. From this they mean that we tried our level best but God was not on our side. How foolish it is to associate one's own weakness and failing to God. It is God's law that whatever we do has a consequence destined. Good or bad consequence is dependent on our own task. As far as hard work and effort are concerned, the result is in our hands. What is needed is to make effort to have definitive results and not rest until the results are achieved!

Some people write in to say they make great effort in worship of God but do not achieve their objective, their prayers are not accepted. It should be understood from this that one has not quite reached the stage one needs to be at or one has adopted the wrong way to get to the objective. Not only should the way to reach our objective be the right one but we should also be prepared to put in the required hard work.

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) said that when an alchemist is unsuccessful he pins it down to slight imprecision in temperature. That is, he does not lose hope in alchemy and puts it down to his own failing. Although there is no scope for hope in alchemy whereas hope springs eternal is connecting to God. An alchemist whose whole life is spent in dealing with the slightest of imprecisions in temperature does not lose hope in spite of his failure. How-

However, if a person who wishes to attain nearness to God is not successful, he does not put it down to any defect in his practice, rather he loses hope in God and stops making effort.

Indeed, research work takes years upon years before any result is achieved.

What is needed in attainment of spirituality, closeness to God and acceptance of prayer is to keep an eye on one's own ways and to reform and better them. To self-analyse, to keep an eye on one's worship of God and to abide by all commandments of God and to correct one's thoughts and intellect. God states that He is near and He listens to prayers of the supplicant. Thus if one does not feel that God is near and does not experience acceptance of prayers, then somewhere along the way something is deficient in the human effort.

The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) used to say that there are two kinds of beggars. One type of beggars call out and take whatever is given to them, if nothing is given they call out two or three times and then move on. The second kind of beggar cannot be turned away unless he gets what he begs. This kind of beggars are very few.

Hazrat Musleh Mau'ood (may Allah be pleased with him) said that he remembered a beggar used to come to the door of the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) and would not move until the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) stepped out and gave him something. At times he used to ask for a fixed amount of money and if less was given he would simply not accept it. Many a time the Promised Messiah's visitors used to make up the amount he asked.

On days when the Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) was ill and did not go out he would sit there until such time that the Promised Messiah felt better and stepped out. The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) used to say that in terms of acceptance of prayer, it is important that one is like the second type of beggar and keeps on asking and does not stop until such time that act of God proves that prayer about a specific matter should be ceased. For example these days sex of an unborn baby can be found out and in latter part of pregnancy it can be found out with quite certainty. To continue to pray in such a situation for a baby boy [if it's a girl] is against the act of God. Indeed, prayer can be made to have a baby boy in future. At times, God discloses His will and to continue to pray against God's will in such a situation is discourteous.

It should also be remembered that planning and prayers go side by side. One should plan and then pray with resoluteness as this attracts God's grace. It is very important that we also plan and take practical steps along with praying for something. The Promised Messiah (on whom be peace) used to say that to pray without planning is wrong and the prayer of such a person is thrown back on him because to pray and not plan is against the law of God. It is tantamount to testing God and it is contrary to the dignity of God that man should test Him.

May we, with resoluteness, mould our condition in accordance with pleasure of God and may we pray with the apparent requisites.



# CHRISTIAN BELIEF CONCERNING ANTICHRIST ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE

Ehtishamul Haq Mahmood Kauser

The concept of the Antichrist is a relatively new concept in Biblical terms. The appearance and mention of the Antichrist is restricted to the New Testament where reference is specifically associated with the Second Coming of the Messiah. The Antichrist is not found in Jewish traditions, however, it exists not only in Christianity, but also found abundantly referred to by the founder of Islam, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa). The beliefs surrounding the Antichrist including the Second Coming are all in constant debate amongst the various Christian denominations as to the precise method of their fulfilment. Some assume the Second Coming to be spiritual and therefore prophecies that are all linked with it are to be fulfilled in the same spiritual sense. While some assume that the coming of the Messiah will be physical and all prophecies that surround his coming should be considered literal in their scope. The third viewpoint denies the validity of the Second Coming and all such prophecies and signs that are associated with them. The Holy Bible in its entirety reveals less than ten verses that speak of the Antichrist and although there is a vast variety of subjects present within it, only a select few verses discuss future events. An innate quality of predicting future events is that they cannot be confirmed until and unless such events actually take place. Since they are from the very onset ambiguous to the level of testing the faith of the faithful, it is, therefore, vital to have an open mind when analyzing the meanings and interpretations of such prophecies.

The very first instance in which the term Antichrist appears is by the pen of the Disciple John. Although there is some speculation as to whether or not the author of the First and Second Epistle of John is in fact the same apostle John during the life of Jesus (as), nevertheless majority of modern day scholars agree that John himself was the author of both (1). To understand the context in which it appeared, it is necessary to read the various excerpts beforehand:

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false Prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the

flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.” (2)

He further writes:

***“Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also. Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.” (3)***

And finally it mentions

“For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.” (4)

The context of this reference is a philosophy that was born at the very infancy of the Church's development. There was a concept known as 'Decotism' which although today is rejected by all denominations, at that very beginning, it began to take shape and people were being pulled towards it. What Decotism represented was that 'Jesus did not appear in the flesh and bones, but was either an illusion or appeared only as a spirit'. Because this concept was damaging to the reality of the events that occurred, it is a blessing that Jesus' (as) disciple himself made this fact clear that Jesus (as) was a human being, living and breathing and therefore, shattered this new ideology before it became the central belief of Christianity.

The reason to highlight this context is that here John uses the term 'Antichrist' in a very loose term by classifying not only those who were preaching this ideology, but that anyone who even desires to utter such claim should be considered the Antichrist. The implication here is that anyone who rejects the original doctrine and historical truth surrounding the first



coming of the Messiah, Jesus (as), is in fact the Antichrist and an enemy to the teachings of Jesus (as). With the words "whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world" makes it plain that his use of 'Antichrist' was referring to those of his present day to be the personification of the Antichrist by their mere interpolation of the faith and teachings of Jesus (as). Therefore, anyone who teaches anything that is against the very core of fundamentals that were not only taught but practiced by Jesus (as) is classified by John to be an Antichrist.

Now concerning the other instance in which the words of Antichrist and his description appear are related to future events that were foretold to occur. As stated earlier, each prophet that foretold of the coming of another would leave the faithful with signs that were to be taken metaphorically and not literally so as to enhance their faith when they in fact recognize such signs. If the signs were explicit with details such as names, date of birth, and place of birth, no faith would be required and there would not be a distinction from those who possess faith and those who do not. Therefore, in the spiritual system of God that surrounds prophecies of coming events, they always retain a hint or two while the rest becomes manifest at the time of their fulfillment as a means to heighten the faith of the believers. With that in mind, we find three separate descriptions of the future event of the appearance of the Antichrist from Biblical references. The first that should be considered is found in 2 Thessalonians which although amidst much debate over the true identity of its author, many scholars assume its attribution to Paul (5). Whether it is Paul or another author is irrelevant in the discussion at hand.

"Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?"(6)

What is highlighted for our need is that the return of the Christ would be linked with the appearance of what is known as "the man of sin." Although these signs are not credited to be directly from Jesus (as), yet Paul in this particular case portrays the Antichrist to appear in the form of a man. Whether that is to be taken metaphorically or literally is another discussion. What becomes clear is that according to Paul, the Antichrist would only truly appear when the coming of the return of the Messiah is to be manifested. And he adds that the fate of that wicked one will be ultimately defeated by the words, "And then



shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming."(7)

The next reference which indicates characteristics of the Antichrist is mentioned with great detail in the Book of Revelation. Regarding the authorship of the Book of Revelation there is great uncertainty. Although some attribute it to the same author of the Gospel of John and refer the author to be John of Patmos, while others do not find agreement in his authorship. It is an ongoing debate as to who the author of the Book of Revelation is. His precise identity remains unknown. However, the contents of this last book consist of the most futurist references by comparison to the rest of the books contained in the New Testament.

In the verses of the Book of Revelation there are many accounts of such demons and characters that fulfill the overall expectation and mission of the Antichrist in terms of his deception, denial and destruction of true faith against the Messiah. The dragon, the Beast, and the Serpent seem to all point to the metaphorical appearance of Satan. This point is highlighted when after describing the events surrounding those three creatures, it states: "Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven with the key to the bottomless pit and a heavy chain in his hand. He seized the dragon – that old serpent, who is the devil, Satan – and bound him in chains for a thousand years." [8]

If the appearance of the Beast or what is also known as the serpent has two distinct manifestations both separated by the

span of a thousand years points to what John the Apostle was hinting at when he referred to contradictory dogmas that were appearing at his time and that would again appear later. Therefore, the mention of the thousand years is in fact direct correlation to the already established fact that the Antichrist would appear twice, the second appearance being of a striking nature relating to the last combat between good and evil. There are countless other imageries contained in the Book of Revelation, for which reason only a select few were underlined.

The final take on the appearance of the Antichrist must be by the words of Jesus (as) himself. Although Jesus (as) has never been reported to have coined the phrase 'Antichrist' or that he ever used it yet it was through the various descriptions that he himself revealed about the end days which later developed into the common use of this term. We first read from the book of Mark.

"And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter. For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be. And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days. And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not: For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect. But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things. But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken [9]."

The Gospel of Matthew mentions a similar account regarding the Second Coming [10]. What is quickly noticed is that amongst the various characteristics mentioned by Jesus (as) about his return, one of those characteristics is the appearance of false Christs and false prophets. This is in direct agreement to the statements made by John about false teachers. Another subtle characteristic lies in the elusive indication made by John in that the future Antichrist will be deeply rooted in his opposition to the original teachings of Jesus (as). While maintaining an opposition to the original teaching, it will be masked in the name of the Christ. While the gift presented to the faithful will be contrary to the words of Jesus (as), the wrapping paper will have the seal of Jesus (as). This subtle fact makes the threat of the Antichrist all the more perilous. Additionally, the words of Jesus (as) mention clearly that the true Messiah would appear at the very time when false Messiahs and false prophets would announce their claim. Meaning, false Messiahs will appear during the same time the true Messiah will appear. The triumph and victory destined for the truth and light of God's true servant while destruction and devastation to be the end of the Antichrist.

**In conclusion**, what can be drawn from the various descriptions and mentions of the Antichrist is that the Antichrist has a vast meaning within the New Testament having been referred to as 'religious teachers', (11) 'a Man', (12) 'a Beast, Devil and Satan', (13) and finally 'false prophets and false Messiahs'. (14,15) This leaves the door wide open for interpretation on the accurate fulfillment of the prophecy of the Antichrist. Will it be manifested in the form of religious teachers, a single man, a beast or false prophets? That is the wide variety of possibilities that is presented in the Holy Bible. Additionally it becomes clear that there will be two separate manifestations of this evil force, the second manifestation ending in utter destruction and defeat. What can be said without any doubt is that the Antichrist, possessing its evil force, will battle against the Second Coming of the Messiah and while the battle will be fierce, it will not be short lived instead the faithful will have to undergo an immense amount of persecution (15) after which their steadfastness and patience will declare them an ultimate victor. To reveal more intricate details of the Antichrist, a further study of the signs and fulfillment of the Second Coming will have to be examined so that the reality of prophecies and his signs can be made apparent. The fact is that as Prophet Jesus (as) himself did not fulfill the literal prophecies that were demanded by the Jews of his time, similarly, the coming prophecies whether about the Antichrist or the coming of the Messiah himself were also destined to be fulfilled metaphorically.



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- [8] Revelation 20:1-2
- [9] Mark 13:18 – 25
- [10] Book of Mathew, Chapter 24, Verses 20-27
- [11] John 4:1-3
- [12] 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5
- [13] Revelation 20:1-2
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# EXPLANATIONS ABOUT DAJJAL

Perspective of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

Mansura Bashir Minhas

Dajjal is a term in Arabic that means "the great deceiver." It is a sign of the Latter Days and signifies the Satanic forces that would unleash at the time of the advent of the Messiah and Mahdi to oppose him. In Christianity, there is a similar prophecy about the appearance of the anti-Christ and it refers to the same phenomenon.

The Dajjal mentioned in the sayings of the Holy Prophet of Islam (Ahadith) is described in the Holy Qur'an as the Satan: "He (Satan) pleaded in the presence of God to be granted respite until those who are dead of heart are revived. God said: You are given respite till that time." (1)

There is unanimity about the appearance of Dajjal in the Latter Days amongst all Muslims. However, there are huge differences in the interpretations of the prophecy regarding it. The Holy Prophet of Islam, Muhammad (sa) had forewarned about the Dajjal and deemed it as one of the greatest calamity to afflict mankind in the Latter Days. He also explained that when the greatest pinnacle of Dajjal manifests, that will be the time of the advent of the Messiah (as).

Amongst the majority of Muslims, however, the concept of Dajjal remains an obscure phenomenon - one of mythical proportions, if the interpretations of the prophecy relating to it are deemed to be literal.

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community represents True Islam and it has the unique distinction of crystallizing the prophecy of Dajjal. Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as), the Promised Messiah and Mahdi has elucidated on the concept of Dajjal in light of the Holy Qur'an and the Ahadith of Prophet Muhammad (sa). He says:

"The word Dajjal has two connotations: First, it signifies a group which supports falsehood and works with cunning and deceit. Secondly, it is the name of the Satan who is the father of all falsehood and corruption." (2)

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) has clarified that Dajjal is an intangible concept and not a physical one. He has explained the word "Dajjal": It is derived from the Arabic root word "Dajjul" which means deceit. Thus Dajjal means a Great Liar or Great Deceiver, one who speaks falsehood. It refers to the evil forces, which speak against God and religion and desire to spread immorality in society.

All prophets have warned of evil forces. Their advents are tied to the reformation of mankind and they decry evil. Prophets dispel the evil effects of entities or people and beings who create havoc in the earth and lead people astray. Prophets work against such evil influences and stress that God is our sole Creator, center of our thoughts and that He teaches goodness and morality. It is incumbent upon all believers to act upon the guidance of prophets and work towards inculcating harmony and peace in the society.

The greatest manifestation of the evil forces is Dajjal during the time of Imam Mahdi, Imam of the Latter Days. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) has said that one of the prime objectives of the Imam Mahdi would be to have a spiritual battle against the forces of evil and teach goodness and bring people back to their Lord.

The old adage of good versus evil has always persisted. A lot of people in the world misguide and are still doing so. Prophets come to counter the satanic forces.

So who is Dajjal and how is he distinguished from other evil forces? In prophecies, it is a huge man, who is blind in the right eye and who would ride on a donkey. The blindness in the right eye signifies blindness to spiritual guidance. It is also mentioned that the left eye of the Dajjal is prominent and deeply penetrating. However, the description of the Dajjal should not be taken literally.







Ahmadiyya Muslim Community offers the most consistent and plausible interpretations of the prophecy of Dajjal. In spiritual terms, right signifies goodness whereas left is deemed worldly or materialism. Thus, the connotation of a significant, stronger left eye means moving away from spiritual and being immersed in materialism.

This is interpreted as the huge advancements of the world in science, sociology, commerce, philosophy, and astronomy. The last century has witnessed man breaking the confines of the Earth and travelling to moon. Astronauts take expeditions to space and reside there for years. Now, there are plans of sending expedition to Mars in the near future. Even though the advancements in the material pursuits are astounding, people are forgetting the spiritual needs and forgetting what is to come in the life Hereafter.

Since the second advent of Jesus (as) is not literal, so the Dajjal cannot be interpreted literally. Since the second advent of Jesus (as) is metaphorical and God speaks in parables, to fully understand and interpret the prophecy of Dajjal also requires a spiritual key. It is prophesied that when Jesus (as) will descend, he would kill Dajjal, kill the swine and break the Cross.

These are all metaphors and Dajjal does not represent a single person, and Jesus (as) would not literally kill the swine and break the Cross. Dajjal refers to the powerful Western nations, and it is not one man or one entity. It signifies a group of people who present themselves as trustworthy and pious but are neither. Its influence is not split geographically.

The Holy Qur'an then specifies that in the latter days the Christians will dominate the earth. They will leave behind all other nations in their social, agricultural, and commercial achievements policies, as indeed in everything else.  
"They shall hasten forth from every height."(3)

These people are called Gog and Magog in view of their national dominance. Among them are the people who have left no stone unturned in spreading misguidance and consequently came to be known as the Great Dajjal.

The second advent of Jesus is mentioned as a spiritual representation with a main task to break and refute the central argument of Christianity – Trinity, which is symbolized by the Cross. It means that he would offer concrete and powerful arguments against it. The killing of the swine refers to waging a war against a culture, which is lost, shameless and permissive. This is an expression of the rejection of a cultural behavior, which is not decent, a culture of the swine.

Killing of the Dajjal alludes to the fact that its influence would continue to wane in the time of Imam Mahdi and it would gradually dissipate. It refers to revolutions and an era where huge powers will lose strength. In essence, Dajjal represents the great Christian powers who wield great influence in the world. As is evident, the symbol of all great powers today is Trinity, the Cross and the eating of the swine. Christian powers rule the modern day world. They are a giant force, having conquered land and not sparing an inch of land from their occupation and colonization. The British, German, Dutch, French, Russians, and Americans have ruled the entire globe.

So according to the prophecy of the Holy Prophet (sa), Dajjal has come and a fight against it has erupted. The main instrument in the hands of the Promised Messiah (as) is logical arguments through which he proves that Jesus (as) died like all other Prophets an ordinary prophet and that he is not a son of God. His proofs towards this end symbolize breaking the Cross and nullifying the Trinity, which is the foundation of Christianity.

On the other hand, rest of the Muslim world is waiting for a physical descent of Jesus (as). They believe that since he did not die and instead ascended, he is somewhere between this world and the other world, in the fourth heaven! Their Mullahs or clergy continue to hone this absurd understanding as they wait for Jesus (as), and also Dajjal who is a giant that resembles the fairy tale Jinns, and how Jesus (as) would travel the world and conquer all nations. Dajjal's mode of travel would be a donkey who would be equally huge and have the ability to fly over the clouds and make a jump, as if one foot in the East and one in the West.



The airplanes in the modern era fulfill this prophecy. The donkey is a metaphor to describe the mode of travel through land, sea or air. The Promised Messiah (as) has interpreted the Dajjal as the mighty Christian powers who are wise in worldly affairs and have discovered the treasures and secrets of the world. He says:

“Dajjal is not the name of one man. According to the Arabic lexicon, Dajjal signifies a group of people who present themselves as trustworthy and pious, but are neither trustworthy nor pious. Rather, everything they say is full of dishonesty and deceit. This characteristic is to be found in the class of Christians known as the clergy. Another group is that of the philosophers and thinkers who are busy trying to assume control of machines, industries and the Divine scheme of things. They are the Dajjal because they deceive God’s creatures by their actions and tall claims as if they are partners in God’s dominion. The clergy are arrogating to themselves the status of prophethood because they ignore the true heavenly Gospel and spread a perverted and corrupted version as the supposed translation of the Gospel.” (4)

It is said that when Prophet Muhammad (sa) mentioned the might of the Dajjal, his companions trembled when he told them of its might and wrath and how even if someone was saved from the Dajjal, his smoke would reach their nostrils. This alludes to the pollution that results from the different forms of communication and emissions from the modes of transportation.

The Holy Prophet (sa) advised his companions to recite the first ten and last ten verses of Surah Al-Kahf (5) to nullify the injurious effects of Dajjal. These verses elaborate on the time of Dajjal, how Christianity would be distorted and lose its right eye. The left eye that signifies scientific advancements and industrial revolution would be prominent and dominant and we are witnesses to that phenomenon.

Another aspect that is wrongly interpreted is that the Messiah of the Latter Days would kill the Dajjal with a sword. Messiah (as) is destined to fight the Dajjal but not through physical might, rather he would melt him through prayers. Dajjal is so huge that he cannot be countered with the sword. The Promised Messiah (as) says:

“Do not think that I have come to wield the sword. No. What I have come to do is to put the swords back into their scabbards.” (6)

According to the Ahadith and prophecies of the Holy Qur’an, the signs of the Latter Days have been fulfilled. The much-awaited Imam Mahdi has appeared in the person of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) of Qadian and he has offered the world a solution to counter the ill effects of Dajjal. He has identified the Dajjal and given concrete solutions to eradicate its menace. In following the guidance of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) of Qadian, the Promised Messiah and Mahdi, lies the key to defeating the Dajjal.



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- [4] Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as), Kitab-ul-Bariyyah, Ruhani Khaza’in, Vol. 13, Pp. 243-244
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# THE DAJJAL<sup>IN</sup> HADITH LITERATURE

Azhar Goraya

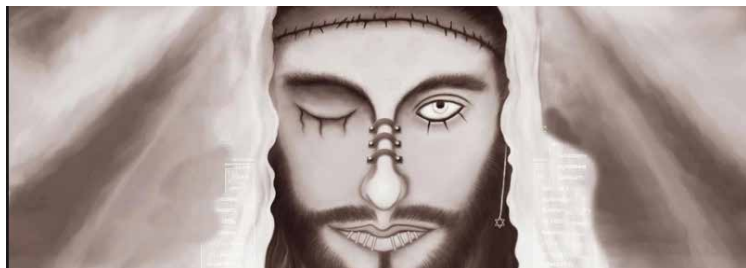
There exist various Ahadith (sayings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa)) about the Dajjal, many of which are metaphorical. Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian (as), the Promised Messiah and Mahdi, has provided many enlightened interpretations of these Ahadith, which coincide with the Holy Qur'an, other Ahadith, and the realities of our time. He states:

"Behold! The words of Allah are true and cannot be changed, but the people do not understand the meanings of the Ahadith and have not understood them as they should have been. And Allah blesses whomsoever He wills from amongst His servants, and grants him understanding of that which he has not granted understanding to anybody else in the world."(1)

A summary of some of his interpretations are given below:  
His Physical Description His Being Compared to the Appearance of Abdul Uzza Ibn Qatan

The Holy Prophet (sa) described the Dajjal in one place as: "...He (Dajjal) will be a young man with curly hair and a protuberant eye; I liken him to 'Abdul-'Uzza bin Qatan..." (2)

The Holy Prophet (sa) here stated that if he were to compare him to someone, he would compare him to Abdul Uzza Ibn Qatan. Mullah Ali Qari stated in his explanation of this Hadith that the fact the Holy Prophet (sa) used the word "Kanni" (meaning "as if I am") which means that this was a vision of the Holy Prophet (sa) that requires interpretation. (3) All the prophecies about the Dajjal narrated by the Holy Prophet (sa) were according to the visions or dreams that he saw about it(4) Therefore, as is universally accepted, they are all subject to interpretation.



## The Eyes of the Dajjal

There are Ahadith which state that the Dajjal will be blind in the right eye:

"Allah is not hidden from you; He is not one-eyed, and pointed with his hand towards his eye, adding, while Al-Masih Ad- Dajjal is blind in the right eye and his eye looks like a protruding grape."(5)

And others which state that he will be blind in the left: "The Dajjal is blind of left eye..." (6)

There is a Hadith which states that his right eye will be faulty shine very brightly: "...and the right eye (of the Dajjal) is as if it is a shining star..."(7)

Ibn-e-Hajr in his book Fathul-Bari has discussed the various narrations surrounding the eyes of the Dajjal, concluding that almost equivalent traditions mention his blindness for both eyes. Many scholars have opined that this means that both of his eyes are defective, though to differing degrees.(8)

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) has explained that the Ahadith which state that his right eye will be faulty and his left eye will be sharp mean that this group of people will be bereft of spiritual insight, but in matters of worldly sciences they will be sagacious.(9)

If the right eye is accepted as to be blind and the left eye faulty, then this means that these nations will be deprived of not only of spiritual, but worldly sight as well. They will not differentiate between legitimate and illegitimate ways of acquiring worldly goods.(10)

Another explanation that he has made is that the right eye of the Dajjal being blind means that he will not be able to understand the Holy Qur'an, and the left one being faulty means that he will not abide by the teachings of the Torah.(11)

## His Emergence (Time and Place)

The Dajjal Being Chained in a Church during the time of the Holy Prophet (sa) and then emerging in the Latter Days(12)

This means that the concept of Dajjal or Dajalliyyat (act of being Dajjal) existed during the time of the Holy Prophet (sa) but was in a manner locked within the Christian circles and lands. Later on, this mischief would emerge from the Christian church and spread great havoc in the word (13) or that it is possible that the chains on the Dajjal represented those obstacles in the path of Christian missionaries which prevented them from spreading across the world during the life of the Holy Prophet (sa).(14)

## The Dajjal Will Appear From the East

The Holy Prophet (sa) stated:

"Dajjal will emerge in a land in the east called Khorasan\*..."(15)

\* Khorasan, also spelled Khurasan, is a historical region and realm comprising a vast territory now lying in northeastern Iran, southern Turkmenistan, and northern Afghanistan. The historical region extended, along the north, from the Amu Darya (Oxus River) westward to the Caspian Sea and, along the south, from the fringes of the central Iranian deserts eastward to the mountains of central Afghanistan. Arab geographers even spoke of its extending to the boundaries of India.(16)

In another place he stated:

"Behold he (Dajjal) is in the Syrian sea (Mediterranean) or the Yemen sea (Arabian Sea). Nay, on the contrary, he is in the east, he is in the east, he is in the east, and he pointed with his hand towards the east."(17)

"The Dajjal appearing from the East ("Mashrik") means that he will appear from the lands of Faris, Najad and Hindustan (Persia - present day Iran, the Arabian Peninsula and the Indo-Pak sub-continent), and out of these Hindustan was the most appropriate because of its fallen moral state."(18)

## The Time of His Arrival

The Promised Messiah(as) has explained that the Aayaat-e-Kubra (Greater signs of the Latter Days) will appear after 1200 years according to the hadith:

"Statement that the 'Great Signs' will appear after 1200 years means that these signs will appear in the 13th Century (of the Islamic Calendar). The First 200 years after the Holy Prophet (sa) were part of the golden age of Islam. Muslim scholars agree on this, therefore, this time is excluded from 1200 years mentioned in the Hadith. Moreover, no such signs appeared in that time. So the Messiah, the Dajjal, and all the other Greater Signs will appear in the 13th century."(19)

## The Length of His Stay

The Promised Messiah(as) has stated that there are some Ahadith which mention that his stay will be 40 days, and some that say 40 years. Some even say 45 years. Some Ahadith also state that one of his days will be like one of our years. If this is the case, then he will outlive the messiah. The fact is that the Holy Prophet (sa) has openly stated that:

"Which means that the sum total of his days will be like your days and they will not be supernatural."(20)

His Claim of Being God and a Prophet  
The Holy Prophet (sa) stated:

"..He (The Dajjal) will start by saying 'I am a Prophet,' and there is no Prophet after me. Then a second time he will say: 'I am your Lord'..."

The Promised Messiah(as) writes,

"...As it is written that the Dajjal will claim to be a prophet and also will lay claim to being God...The claim of prophet-hood has in this manner been made that the priests of these people have insolently interfered with the books of the prophets as if they themselves were prophets. They changed their lines and wrote explanations according to their own fancies...And in terms of claiming to be God...they have desired to unravel every secret of the heavens and the earth and have intended to take all the works of God into the palm of their hands..."(21)

He also writes that the claim of divinity doesn't mean that they won't accept God, but that they look with contempt on the commandments of God and desire that people obey and honor them like they should honor God.(22)



His Actions and Abilities He would rule the world except for Mecca and Medina (23)

The Promised Messiah(as) says about the Christian missionaries:

"...and there is hardly a place, with the exception of Mecca and Medina, where they have not gone in pursuit of their objective."(24)

He would have Heaven and Hell with him, but his Heaven will actually be Hell and his Hell will actually be Heaven

The Holy Prophet (sa) stated:

"...there would be heaven and hell with him. His hell would be heaven and his heaven would be hell." (25)

The Promised Messiah(as) has explained that while the new inventions of the Christian nations provide unparalleled comforts, their organizational system results in hard-work, poverty, and famine.(26)

The sky and earth will be obedient to him and the treasures of the earth will follow him

The Holy Prophet (sa) stated about the Dajjal:

"...He would then give command to the sky and there would be rainfall upon the earth and it would grow crops...He would then walk through the waste land and say to it: Bring forth your treasures, and the treasures would come out and then follow him like swarms of bees."(27) The Promised Messiah(as) has explained that the sky and earth being obedient to the Dajjal means that his plans will be in line with the Taqdeer (Decree) of Allah. He will allow the world to be populated according to his will. (28) This means that the Dajjal will take much benefit from the land. He will populate and work the land according to his intellect with the result that such barren lands will begin to bear treasures.(29)

With regards to the wealth he brings forth following him, the Promised Messiah (as) has explained how the Christian nations populate the lands and make them wealthy through different industries. But once they do so, all the wealth they produce follows them back to Europe, such as is clear from India, whose wealth they take back to Europe.(30)



### The Donkey of the Dajjal

The Holy Prophet (sa) has stated:

"The Dajjal will come forth on a brilliant, shining donkey between whose ears is the distance of 70 cubits."(31)

And that he will move across the earth:

"...Like a rain cloud being driven by the wind..."(32)

The Promised Messiah(as) has stated that the donkey of the Dajjal is actually the train system that the Christian nations use. The length of the train is usually this length, and there is no doubt that they run on the strength of smoke, like clouds move quickly by strength of the wind. And because the train is the invention of the Christian nations whose leaders are the Dajjal, the train has been declared as its donkey.(33).

### The Manner of His Death

The death of the Dajjal in no way means the physical defeat of the Christian nations. The Promised Messiah (as) has explained that the Dajjal being killed means that the arguments and evidences of the Christian faith will be broken. A religion that is completely defeated by sure arguments and its humiliation and disgrace has been made apparent is without a doubt viewed as being dead and defeated. (34)

### Place of His Death as being Ludd

Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) stated:

"...He (Hazrat Esa) would then search for him (the Dajjal) until he would catch hold of him at the gate of Ludd and would kill him..." (35)



The Promised Messiah(as) states:

***“...Ludd refers to those people who incessantly and illogically argue. This means that when such arguments of the Christians reach their peak, the Messiah will appear and put an end to all of their arguments.”(36)***



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- [3] Sahih Bukhari, The Book of Tauheed, Chapter: "...In order that you may be brought up under My Eye..."
- [4] Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as), Ruhani Khazain, Vol. 3, Izala Auham, pg. 200
- [5] Sahih Bukhari, The Book of Tauheed, Chapter: "...In order that you may be brought up under My Eye..."
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- [8] Fathul Bari Sharah Sahih Bukhari, Vol. 13, pg. 97-98, Under the Chapter of the Mention of the Dajjal.
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- [12] Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as), Sahih Muslim, The Book of Tribulations and Portents of the Last Hour
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- [26] Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as), Ruhani Khazian, Vol. 3, Izala Auham, pg. 491
- [27] Sahih Muslim, The Book of Tribulations and Portents of the Last Hour, Chapter Ad-Dajjal
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- [30] Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as), Ruhani Khazian, Vol. 3, Izala Auham, pg. 492
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- [33] Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as), Ruhani Khazian, Vol. 3, Izala Auham, pg. 493
- [34] Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as), Ruhani Khazian, Vol. 3, Izala Auham, pg. 470-471
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# SPIRITUAL TREASURES

## BOOKS OF THE PROMISED MESSIAH(as)

### ***The Criterion for Religions***

Book Review: Mi'yarul Madhahib

Reviewed by Mubasher Ahmad

The Criterion for Religions is a small book of 38 pages written by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian (as), the Promised Messiah and Mahdi, in 1895. Its Urdu title is Mi'yarul Madhahib. It was translated into English by Qazi M. J. As'ad; and the first English edition was published in 2007 at Islam International Publications Limited, Tilford, Surrey, United Kingdom.

In this book, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) makes a comparison of the concept of God as presented in three major religions: Arya Samaj – (a branch of Hinduism), Christianity, and Islam. The book starts with an appreciation of the good works done by the British Government in India that promoted freedom of religious practices and allowed preaching among all denominations. The British Government established printing presses, and started new channels of communications, such as postal system, that made it easy to ship books from place to place. In addition, knowledge of modern sciences and the arts was spread through educational institutions. But most importantly, the British Government provided security by ensuring protection of life, honor, and property of its subjects. However, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) wrote that “the environment that may inspire true spirituality, is either extremely rare or completely non-existent. Higher education and philosophical thoughts are taking people towards atheism. Deep absorption of the people in worldly pursuits undermines the spirit of recognizing the Almighty God and the truth.” After making these preliminary remarks, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) proceeds to point out that the three major religions in India, Arya Samaj, Christianity, and Islam are confronting each other. Arya Samaj, a reform movement in Hinduism, was started by Swami Dayananda (1824-1883) in 1875, and it had a big following in Punjab. The Christian missionaries were free to carry out their work all over India under Imperial protection.

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) points out that in Arya religion, the concept of God is not perfect as the hallmarks of Divine perfection are missing in him. The Parmeshwar of Aryas lacks the infinite powers of creating matter and souls along with their properties. According to the Hindu belief, souls and material things are as eternal as Parmeshwar himself. The best He can do is to join together the existing souls and tiny material particles. Except for a few pages of the Vedas, there is no way of recognizing the God of Hindus through the laws of nature; and it becomes very difficult to prove the very existence of God. Moreover, the God of Aryas does not possess the moral qualities of forgiveness and showing mercy and kindness to human souls. Each sin becomes a cause of millions of reincarnations without any possibility of deliverance until and unless a sinner receives full punishment by going through countless reincarnations. This might be the reason that in the Vedas worshipping Parmeshwar is left out, and emphasis is laid on worshipping other gods, such as fire, air, moon, sun and water. The majority of Hindus seek rewards and favors from these objects that they worship.

In Christianity, Jesus Christ is taken as God – who was born of a woman and died at the age of 32 [120 according to the Promised Messiah(as)]. He could not save himself from getting arrested, though he prayed for it all night. He was put upon cross, and died crying, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me.”(1) Such a helpless God cannot be the Creator of the heavens and the earth. He cannot be Omnipotent, so he cannot be worshipped. As a matter of fact such a God is even weaker than the Arya Parmeshwar who could, at least combine souls and matter; but Jesus could not, as demanded by the Jews, keep his own soul attached to his body, and died at the cross. Death of God is an invention of the Christians. As far the story of his ‘resurrection’ goes, the Christians cannot explain it by use of reason; and their belief in it and his physical ascend to heaven is a plain fantasy and reeks of fabrication.



Arya Samaj,  
a reform movement  
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Moreover, the story that Jesus the God was crucified so that his death could redeem the sinners, and that he would come back to this world with his human body to sit in judgment, is similar to the stories of Hindu Avatars who have re-appeared on the earth in human bodies – made of blood, flesh, bones, and all other organs – to save mankind from sin. The Christian God was born only once from the womb of his mother Mary, but the Hindu God Vishnu was born 9 times to ward off the sins of the world. The Hindu God appears to be better and wiser than the Christian God as he was trying to save mankind since its creation, but the Christian God thought of this strategy only recently to save mankind from sin by having His son crucified. Moreover, the Christians have no answer to the question that if their God does not wish anyone to die in sin, then what arrangements this God has made for the salvation of demons and evil spirits mentioned in the Gospels?

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) further points out that the belief in crucifixion of Jesus for salvation from the original sin leads to two problematic possibilities: First, Christians have to declare all the Holy prophets of God – from Adam onwards – to be sinners and evil doers. And secondly, those who believe in the death of Jesus (as) for the sake of their sins should be supposedly saved from every kind of sin and wickedness, but that is not the case. Christians have not been able to desist from committing sin. Even the disciples of Jesus (as) were not saved: Peter cursed Jesus (as), and his other disciples ran away, leaving him at the mercy of his deadly enemies! In Western Christian countries sin is vastly increased: illicit sex is rampant; thousands of illegitimate children are born every year in London alone; consumption of alcohol has increased; worshipping God is on the decline; and seeking worldly pleasures is on the rise.

As opposed to the concepts of God in Araya Samaj and Christianity, the religion of Islam presents God as the Creator of everything Who exercises His full authority over His creation; and this is evident in the natural bond between the creation and the Creator. Each miniscule particle is steeped in His limitless favors. Islam considers the True and Glorious God to be free from all shortcomings. His Might, Grace, Majesty and Holiness are limitless. All His powers are operating under the immutable law that He can do whatever He wills. The only exception is that He will not do anything that is against His own holiness, exalted station or that may contravene His unvarying promises. For instance, we cannot say that He can kill Himself by His perfect Might, because such an act goes against His eternal attribute of being 'Hayyi' (Ever-living) and 'Qayyum' (the Self-Subsistent).

According to the Islamic belief, God Almighty alone is the Originator of all that exists – body and soul, and He is also the Sustainer of all that exists. Existence of all things depends upon His existence: His presence is a must for the survival and stability of each and every existent; but the Araya and the Christians do not hold this belief. The Holy Qur'an describes God as being the Omnipresent when it says "Whithersoever you turn; there will be the face of God." (2) "He is with you, where-so-ever you may be." (3) And, "We are nearer to man than even his jugular vein." (4)

Thus, through cogent arguments Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) proves the truth and superiority of Islam over Hinduism and Christianity. In his words: "Islam's understanding of God is very simple and clear, and is in keeping with human nature. Even if the books of all other religions were to disappear along with all their teachings and concepts, God – towards Whom the Holy Qur'an leads – would still be clearly reflected in the mirror of the laws of nature and His might and wisdom shall be found glowing in every particle." (5)



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- [4] The Holy Qur'an, Chapter: 50 [Al-Dharyat], Verse:17
- [5] Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as), The Criterion for Religions, Page 30

# DAJJAL, GOG, MAGOG

Imam Rizwan Khan

Standing against the negative influences of both European countries and Western philosophers was one of the basic purposes of the coming of the Promised Messiah (as) as the second coming of Dhul Qarnain, and was defined in the Holy Quran (1) and Ahadith. Gog and Magog, who are the groups prophesied in the Holy Qur'an as being the cause of great disorder in the Latter Days, were defined by the Promised Messiah (as) as the "countries of Europe" and "European powers." (2) Describing Gog and Magog, he wrote, "These are the nations of Europe, as they are unique in their expertise in the use of fire." (3) Gog and Magog are defined as the political powers of the west. Also, concerning the Dajjal the Promised Messiah (as) wrote, "Dajjal in fact is none other than the people known as Christian missionaries or European philosophers." (4)

The support that the Promised Messiah (as) gave to the British should not be mistaken as a complete endorsement of Western powers. Rather, the Promised Messiah (as) supported the British primarily in opposing violence and rebellion and promoting loyalty to one's country of residence, (5) and in appreciating the human rights they extended to their citizens. However, this support did not go contrary to his love for Islam. Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba) said about the Promised Messiah (as), "That heart, which was full of patriotic fervor, held Sultan Fateh Ali Tipu in great respect simply because, instead of bowing his neck in front of the British, he bravely sacrificed his life. How can one even imagine that a person with such self-respect could ever be an agent for a foreign nation?" (6)

To oppose negative influences of the Dajjal, and Gog and Magog, is the responsibility of every Muslim. Loyalty to our country means that we will never rebel and will remain loyal citizens of the country of our residence. However, this does not mean that we ideologically support the injustices of Western imperial powers.

Hazrat Musleh Mau'ood (ra) wrote, "Let my honorable friend remain assured that we also are opposed to the American, British, or French Imperialism, as is evident from my three pamphlets entitled 'Communism and Democracy'. In these pamphlets I have tried to bring home to these Powers that either they must effect a complete change in their attitude towards Eastern peoples or they must come to great grief." (7)

In order to oppose the injustices of Western imperialism, it is important for us to understand the means by which it is imposed. The Holy Prophet (sa) prophesied that the great disorder of the Latter Days would be brought about by people who make use of great deception (Dajjal) and the power of fire (Gog and Magog). We repeatedly observe that when modern imperialism is imposed on weak countries, it is justified with the deception of a noble humanitarian effort, and it is implemented with the fire power. These humanitarian efforts are in reality a fire that is made to appear as a paradise. The Holy Prophet (sa) described this, saying, "Let me tell you something about Dajjal which no Prophet had told his people. He is blind (in one eye) and will bring with him something like Paradise and Hell; but what he calls Paradise will be in fact Hell." (8) As Muslims, we must learn the insight necessary to see through this deception and distinguish this hell from paradise.

Hazrat Mirza Bashir-ud Din Mahmud Ahmad (ra), Musleh Mau'ood and Khalifatul Masih II said, "No sensible-person can be so foolish as to assert that these nations invest capital in other countries out of compassionate motives. If such a person lives he is either a fool or a liar. These Western nations are first and foremost traders and businessmen and no sane person could think of a businessman investing money where there are no dividends. When we do business with a person we admit by that very act that he expects to earn profit by this transaction. There is no sense in asking a businessman to forego his profit." (9) He further writes: "Certainly I should not be understood to mean that Western countries treat us like brothers. Most assuredly they are exploiting Muslim countries. He who dare says that their interference in the political affairs and trade interests of these countries is out of sympathetic motives is either a fool or a knave. In spite of their friendly professions we shall continue to fight them till Muslim countries throw off their yoke and gain full liberty." (10)

Under the disguise of humanitarian motives, imperialism is imposed on weak countries so discreetly that it becomes difficult to distinguish a free country from an enslaved country. When Western powers become involved with weaker countries, they do so with the justification that they seek to help them. Countries fail to recognize the hidden motives behind the deceit of these noble intentions, and they mistake the fire of the Dajjal as a paradise that is being offered to them. When this happens, countries become vassals of Western powers without having realized what happened, and they find that they have no room to exercise their sovereignty.



Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih IV (rh) said: "On the surface, the world does not observe any desire on the part of the developed nations to exercise any influence on the developing countries but in reality they have a strong urge to dictate the fundamental and major foreign policies to the smaller nations. This is the time when smaller nations realize that their foreign policies are not independent. What happens in practice is that, the stronger nations formulate the foreign policy of the smaller nations in such a way that they draw certain lines for the smaller nations. If these smaller nations develop contact with other nations or make changes in their policy while remaining within those "boundaries", then there is no objection but as soon as they venture to cross those lines, these developed nations find some pretext to interfere in their policies. Thus, they are not allowed to follow any independent policy." (11)

This deception is primarily propagated through the media. Propaganda campaigns are used to maintain a hold on the perception of Western powers in the eyes of the world's population. The imperial efforts the Dajjal, and Gog and Magog, are repeatedly depicted before us as great humanitarian efforts. However, imperialism is the underlying motive.

Describing one instance of the way in which the media is used to propagate this deception, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (rh) said, "During the course of the (Gulf) war, an American General proudly admitted and boasted that they had successfully hit the oil wells and oil had started seeping out. The very next day, the whole story was retracted and Iraq was accused of not even sparing the birds in this war. Birds of the kind of coots, cormorant and other wild ducks were repeatedly shown on the television, dripping in oil slick. And this was supposed to project the tyranny of Saddam Hussein who was insensitive even to the plight of innocent birds. Repeated mention of the loss of marine life has been used by the West to indicate the great compassion they have for human, marine or other forms of life. But I would expose before you their "compassion" towards human suffering to uncover their duplicity. The Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) used one word Dajjal (The great deceiver) to encapsulate the entire history of this current historical epoch. This duplicity is so horrifying that you would be surprised to learn that the African continent is suffering from hunger for many years and millions of infants, women, men young and old have been reduced to mere skeletons and they are passing through their painful death in this manner but no attention has been paid to them. Now you have heard the estimate of war expenses - five hundred fifty billion dollars would be needed to rebuild after the war and approximately one hundred billion dollars of miscellaneous expenses and two hundred billion dollars' worth of losses sustained by the Third world countries; the grand total of all this comes to approximately one thousand billion dollars.



As opposed to that, today, twenty five million African people are on the brink of death, as a result of hunger. And this is an estimate given by the United Nations. If it costs two dollars per day to provide food for one African person to keep him or her alive then only 1.5 billion dollars are needed to keep 25 million Africans alive for one whole year. Now you can imagine that those who have no mercy for 25 million people - those who are raining down death and destruction on 16 million Iraqis by spending tons of money are raising hue and cry at the death of a few birds! This is nothing but mere deception and mischief." (12)

This was not an isolated incident, but it was part of a pattern of behavior in Western imperialism that has consistently been observed for decades. The Holy Prophet (sa) described these powers as great deceivers who impose their will through deception and the power of fire. We have observed these characteristics repeatedly become apparent in the behavior of Western powers, and we continue to observe it today. Today, the use of deception and fire power by the Dajjal, and Gog and Magog, has only increased. These attributes have become painfully apparent in Western involvement in Syria. Concerning the Syrian crisis, Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih V (aba) said, "What interest do other powers have in regions thousands of miles away? They are either interested in the wealth of that country or in order to prove their superiority to opposing powers they are simply subjugating lesser countries. In any case, it is due to the weakness of the Muslim countries and their abandonment of their teaching that the others have the impudence to state, as one country did, that even if the United Nations (UN) did not allow, they would use force against Syria because it was their right.

The reasoning given for this 'right' was most childish, in that United Nations cannot dictate their foreign policy. Where does the question of foreign policy enter the equation here? When enmity is so intense people are blinded and apparently educated people say ignorant things. And we look up to them for their wisdom, but they say ignorant things. Sitting thousands of miles away, what business do they have in this matter? If it is anyone's business, it is the United Nations' because the country in question is included in its charter. No individual country has either any pact or any [relevant] dealing or is in any direct danger from the country in chaos. Where is the relevance of foreign policy here?" Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba) said he has not quite understood this logic. "It is mere obstinacy and an effort to prove their superiority. World peace is not established in these ways. For world peace justice has to be done for which the beautiful teaching of Islam states: '... and let not a people's enmity incite you to act otherwise than with justice...'"

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V (aba) has repeatedly drawn the attention of world leaders with reference to this verse. "If the UN was to work on this principle, justice could be established. Here it is not a question of the foreign policy of any one country. Another country has said that they will not send any ground troops to Syria to bring peace but they will use their air power! That is, they will turn the city and the country into ruins as they did before, killing innocent women and children, just like in Iraq and Libya. What was gained there that could be gained here? Cities were turned into ruins and there is still no peace there. God has made their matches from among them. The Russian president wrote yesterday [in the New York Times] that it is not right to bypass the United Nations in such decisions. He clearly wrote that no one wants United Nations to have the fate of the League of Nations which collapsed. Certainly, he is right." (13)

In the face of such a desperate situation, many people fall into despair. Some Muslims in the world have turned to extremism and terrorism, resorting to the ultimate act of desperation by using suicide as a weapon. However, the first responsibility of every Muslim is to maintain hope, knowing that the Holy Prophet (sa) prophesied that the Promised Messiah (as) and his community would overcome the Dajjal, and Gog and Magog. We must place our trust in Allah Almighty and turn to Him in prayer. It is part of our loyalty to our country to strive to establish justice in our country's foreign policy and to pray for our country.

Hazrat Khalifatul Masih IV (rh) said, "We do not claim that the Third world nations are free of vice, neither do we advocate that the East is honorable while labelling the West as wholly corrupt. What we do say is that the inherent potential of the West in propagating vice is such that the like of it has never been given to any nation in the past. In fact, the development of such a frightful situation was predicted by the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) when he said that towards the end of days, the emergence of the Dajjal (Antichrist) would cause so much evil and iniquity in the world that it would have no parallel in history. Since the creation of the world all Prophets were warned of the evil consequences at the appearance of the Dajjal and the subsequent emergence of a powerful nation which would spread iniquity. Therefore, your prayers must not be motivated by any latent prejudice, national, or ethnic divisions, but should rather be sincerely prompted by the message contained in these prophecies." (14)

The forces of Dajjal, and Gog and Magog, will one day be spiritually subjugated to Islam through the efforts and prayers of the Messiah (as) of this age and his community. However, this great victory will not come about on its own. It is our responsibility to strive to bring that day through our efforts in standing against injustice and through prayer. We can be among those who bring this day by truly being members of the community of the Promised Messiah (as) of the Latter Days.

Hazrat Bashir-ud Din Mahmud Ahmad, Khalifatul Masih II (ra) wrote, "I know it for certain that Islam shall win in the long run and I know also that anti-Islamic countries have already ruled over and kept us in chains for too long. God's jealousy has become excited and the dominion of the greatest and noblest of all the Prophets of God, Muhammad(sa), shall now be established in the world. The enemies of God shall be destroyed and extirpated, no matter how many nations offer to help and support them. We shall not give up God and no worldly considerations shall make us come to terms with His enemies. Our God is our greatest wealth and we shall never part with this Wealth. We shall break the chains that hold our country in slavery and shall accept no bondage but that of God. We shall not cut our own nose to spite the face of our enemy. We are convinced that in this way we shall win complete freedom for our countries and shall also keep our nose intact.

For all their military might and material wealth, England and America shall one day be compelled to submit to the spiritual power of Islam. This is God's decree. The day is sure to come when, putting aside their spirit of bargaining, the Americans will extend to us their hand of love and peace, nay the hand of belief and brotherliness. That indeed will be a blessed day for mankind and an auspicious hour. Our God will again take His seat on the Throne of His Glory and Majesty and again the flag of our Noble Prophet(sa) will fly high in the air. The Message of Peace and Goodwill that the Holy Prophet(sa) gave to the world shall spread again to the ends of the earth and find place in the hearts of men. The accusing tongues of his enemies shall be silenced. They shall confess to their mortification that they had made futile efforts to throw mud at God's exalted Messenger and His Elect and shall repent of their evil deeds." (15)



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# JESUS IN KASHMIR: THE LOST TOMB

Written by Suzanne Olsson

Book Review, by Lubna R Malik

Suzanne Olsson's book, *Jesus in Kashmir: The Lost Tomb*, was published in 2005 and chronicles the rich religious history of Kashmir, focusing on the Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Christian, and Muslim roots of this conflicted area in South Asia. Although entitled *Jesus in Kashmir*, the book researches much more than Prophet Jesus (as) in Kashmir, and instead addresses a variety of topics in small sections and delves deeply into evolution and the religious teachings, scripture, and personages of the major world faiths.

Olsson begins by chronicling her own family genealogy to Prophet Jesus (as), and the similarities between the DNA of various living objects (human and otherwise) and blood types. She then examines some of the Prophets of the various world faiths, including Prophets Buddha (as), Solomon (as), and Moses (as). Of all of the prophets examined, however, Prophet Jesus (as), and relatedly his mother Mary and Mary Magdalene, are of primary interest to Olsson.

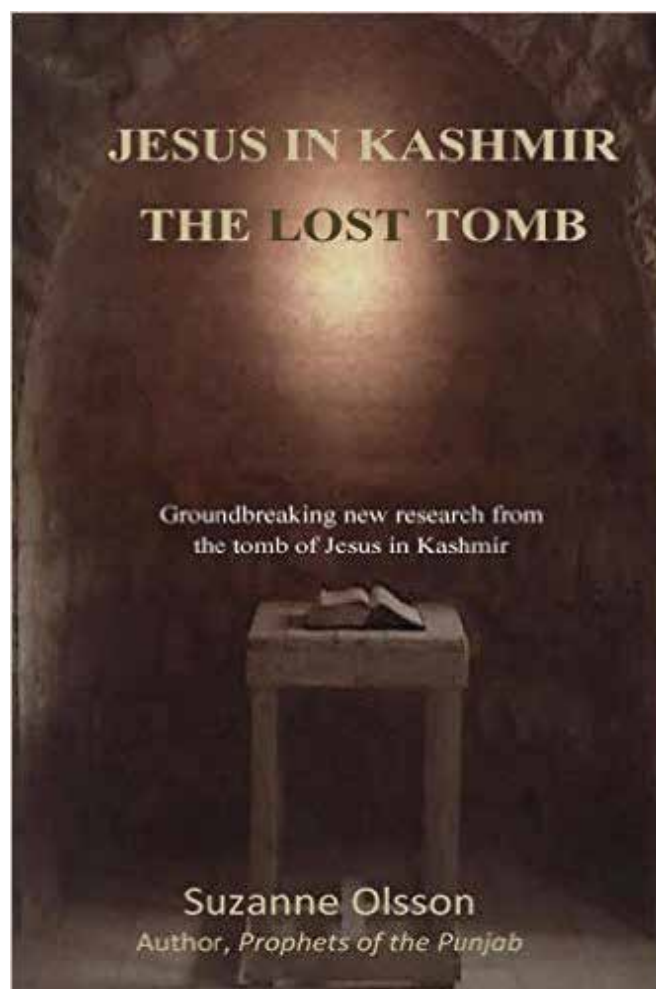
Olsson focuses her writing on Prophet Jesus (as) and begins with research surrounding Prophet Jesus' (as) mother, Mary. In addition to discussing the immaculate conception by Mary (as) of Prophet Jesus (as), Olsson, similar to the process by which scientists and historians have studied Egyptian mummies, desired to seek DNA from the tombs of various Biblical figures to provide scientific evidence regarding the validity or falsity of the tombs, as exemplified by the various tombs of Prophet Jesus (as). One such tomb was the tomb in Murree, Pakistan that is believed to be the tomb of Mary, Mother of Jesus (as). However, although she obtained permission to retrieve DNA and engage in carbon-dating from the tomb, Olsson states that Pakistan did not cooperate and she was unable to complete her research in Murree.

Olsson then focuses on Prophet Jesus (as) himself. Olsson presents that there are various theories of where Jesus (as) went after he was taken down from the cross. Apart from the beliefs of contemporary Christianity, Olsson explores the theory that Jesus (as) went to Egypt, Britain or India. Olsson does not delve too deeply into the theories regarding Egypt or Britain, but does focus on Jesus's (as) potential travels to India. She references the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, whom she refers to as:

*"the Ahmaddis, a branch of Islam centered totally on the idea that Jesus survived crucifixion and died in Kashmir at the age of one hundred and twenty years."*

Olsson explains that, of all of the accounts of where and how Jesus (as) died, The Ahmadi view of Jesus (as) in India is the most accurate and ancient account, with both Muslim and Persian sources that trace the travel path of Jesus (as).

Olsson also traces the origins of Mary Magdalene and points to the various scripture that she has collected from Egypt to India that point to the impact that Mary Magdalene has had on religion and society. For example, in India, Olsson points to an area known as Maghda that is named after Mary Magdalene. She also references at great length scripture from the 1st century that chronicles the impact of Prophet Jesus (as) and Mary Magdalene on the sexual impropriety in India at that time and founding many orphanages for young girls, as well as their impact on helping develop Jainism.





About halfway through her book, Olsson discussed the crucifixion of Prophet Jesus (as). In her account of the crucifixion, Olsson explains that Pilate, the Roman governor, knew that Prophet Jesus' (as) claims were very different from those of the Jewish high priests and believed that Prophet Jesus (as) was not a threat to the Roman Empire. She then quotes the following verses from the Holy Qur'an:

"Because of their [the Jews] saying: 'We slew the Messiah, Jesus son of Mary, God's Messenger' they slew him not, nor crucified him, but it appeared so unto them, and lo! Those who disagree concerning it are in doubt thereof; they have no knowledge thereof save pursuit of a conjecture; they slew him not... But God took him up unto Himself, God is every Mighty, Wise." (1)

Olsson explains that Pilate's actions, possibly in cahoots with Joseph of Arimathea, support the account in the Holy Qur'an, as exemplified by Pilate's words to the Roman soldiers in the Gospel of Nicodemus to, "Let Jesus be brought with gentleness." Olsson explains that Pilate repeatedly declared Prophet Jesus (as) to be innocent. She then recounts the various interpretations of the actual crucifixion and aftermath of the crucifixion, including the possibility that Prophet Jesus (as) did travel to India. (p. 220)

Olsson also describes the Roza Bal (place of the tomb of Jesus) in Kashmir, which is known to be the tomb of a man named Yuz Asaph. Yuz Asaph means "son of Joseph." Olsson believes, similar to the Ahmadi belief, that Yuz Asaph was none other than Prophet Jesus (as). Olsson explains that the various actual historical evidence, as well as the family genealogy of Prophet Jesus (as), is all found in the Roza Bal.

In describing the Roza Bal tomb, Olsson focuses more on the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community (including a picture of His Holiness Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad(aba)). Olsson states:

"Although I am not Muslim, nor do I accept all Ahmaddi conclusions and beliefs, I do endorse their support [of] the tomb of Roza Bal, and their firm stand of non-violence, tolerance, and equality for all. In my opinion, they have been a breadth of fresh air for all Islam in these troubled times." (p. 302)

Olsson further details why there is so much resistance to researching Roza Bal in any scientific manner:

"The Ahmaddis Movement is the only religious organization in the world to recognize Roza Bal tomb as the tomb of Jesus. They have spread the word about Jesus in Roza Bal tomb worldwide. Millions of followers also believe this is true. And this is precisely why research at the tomb has bogged down. Fundamentalists see an Ahmaddi "plot" behind every effort and refuse science and researchers further investigation for this reason alone." (p. 303)

Olsson discusses how the teachings of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community teach true Islam and also emphasize the peaceful, loving nature espoused by the teachings of Prophet Jesus (as). She contrasts this version of Islam to that of the Wahabi and Salafi viewpoint that speaks of a bloody Messiah and bloody Mahdi, which in turn have informed how the Wahabis and Salafis view their practice of religion and how they interact with the outside world—in a very aggressive and violent manner.

Overall, Olsson's book is a chest of research and knowledge on a wide range of topics. Reading this book takes a lot of time, as each section is a research topic in itself. The various black and white images that Olsson has included with the text of her book illuminate the very issues that shed great doubt on the mainstream Christian beliefs surrounding the fate of Prophet Jesus (as) and his mother, Mary (as), as well as the evolution of Buddhism, Hinduism, the final resting place of Prophet Moses' (as) staff, and so much more. Although entitled Jesus in Kashmir, this book is about so much more and much can be ascertained by a careful study. For this book, or any forthcoming book to truly focus on any scientific analysis of the presence of Prophet Jesus (as) in India, as explained by Olsson, it is time to pressure the various governmental and religious institutions that stand in the way of any further research into Roza Bal.



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# FALSE PROPHETS IN JEWISH LITERATURE

Mubasher Ahmad, M.A., LL.B.

In Jewish religious literature a true prophet is a spiritually elevated person who is commanded by God to convey His message to the people that they should obey His commandments and seek forgiveness of their sins through repentance. Thus, the Prophet helps the people in getting them closer to God and promises them prosperity and peace. Also, he warns them that disobedience to God would bring His wrath upon them and they would be punished. On the other hand, a 'false prophet' may have the gift of making prophecy or showing other signs that come true, or perform miracles thus appearing to possess some supernatural powers. But as he is not chosen by God as a Prophet, he does not lead the people to Him. In the Torah, in the book of Deuteronomy, it is written:

"If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces to you a miraculous sign or wonder, and if the sign or wonder of which he has spoken takes place, and he says, "Let us follow other gods" (gods you have not known) "and let us worship them," you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The Lord your God is testing you to find out whether you love Him with all your heart and with all your soul." (1)

In the same book, further details are given concerning false prophets, and the Israelites are asked not to follow or imitate them:

"When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist, or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord." (2)

The punishment for a false prophet is severe. The Lord God says:

"But a prophet who presumes to speak in My name anything I have not commanded him to say, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, must be put to death." (3)

False prophets had appeared from within Israelites as well as from outside. One of the non-Israelite Prophets mentioned in the Torah is Ba'laam son of Beor whose story is very interesting as his attitude towards Israelites is a mixture of good and evil. Towards the end of forty years in the wilderness, under the leadership of Moses, the Israelites defeated the kings of Amorites and of Bashan, and they reached close to the Moab territory. The king of Moab named Balak became worried, and fearing his defeat at the hands of advancing Israelites, he sent a message to a sage by the name of Ba'laam, offering him rewards, and asking him to come to Moab to put a curse on the Israelite forces that were on their way to fight with him. Ba'laam's reply to the King Balak was that he could not curse the Israelites unless God commanded him to do so, and that in a dream God had told him not to go to Moab. On receiving this response from Ba'laam, King Balak once again dispatched a higher-ranking delegation to Ba'laam, offering him great honors and more material rewards. This time, out of greed, Ba'laam kept on praying to God for allowing him to go to Moab. God gave him permission to go to Moab but with clear instructions not to utter anything other than what God commanded him to say. So, Ba'laam went to Moab, and after meeting with King Balak he made some ritual offerings and then prayed. This time he told the king that God had asked him to bless the Israelites instead of sending any curse on them. But the king continued to press Ba'laam to keep on trying and seek God's permission to curse the oncoming forces of Moses. To solve this dilemma, Ba'laam thought of a sinful idea, and told the king that although God had controlled his tongue to say any words against the Israelites, still there was a way that the Israelites could incur God's curse upon themselves. He suggested that beautiful prostitutes and unclean food that was sacrificed to idols should be offered to the Israelites. King Balak used this ploy as proposed by Ba'laam, and the Israelites fell for that. They committed adultery with the women, and ate the forbidden food. Thus, due to trespassing God's Law, they incurred God's curse and were punished by God for their sins. A plague came upon them, killing 24,000 of them. God also punished Ba'laam, and he was killed by the sword in a battle. (4)

This is the story of Ba'laam the false prophet in the Torah who was initially a sage but then due to his greed for worldly rewards turned to be a wicked man. A reference to this story is also in the Holy Qur'an without mentioning Ba'laam's name:

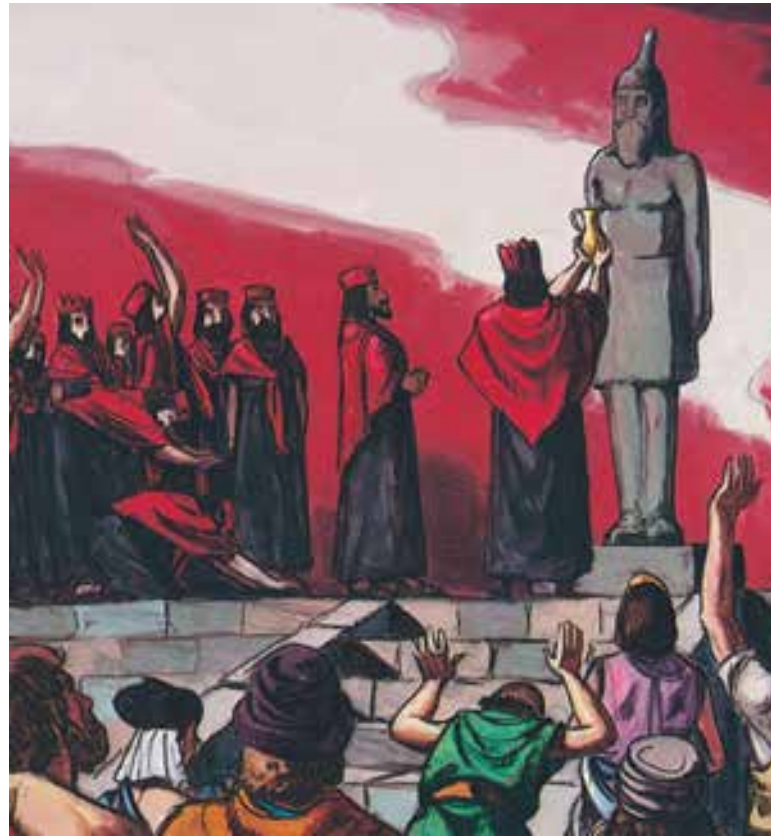
"Relate to them the story of him to whom We gave Our messages, but he stepped away from them; so Satan followed him up, and he became one of those who go astray. Had We wished, We could have elevated him through our Signs, but he clung to the earth and followed his evil desires. In likeness he was like a dog: if you drive it away, he pants with a lolling tongue, and if you leave it alone, it still pants hanging out its tongue. Such is the case of the people who disbelieve in Our Signs." (5)

It appears that the number of prophets – true and false – tremendously increased with passage of time in the lands held by Jewish tribes. For example, during the era of King Ahab who ruled the northern kingdom during the 9th century B.C.E., there were hundreds of prophets under his protection. Ahab had married a princess of Tyre named Jezebel who was not Jewish. She worshipped the storm-god named Baal. To please his wife, Ahab built a temple and alters for Baal, and also made a grove for orgies of the Canaanite goddess Asherah. Jezebel brought a great number of prophets of Baal from Phoenicia. It is written in the Torah that Elijah, a great prophet of God YAHWIH, challenged them all. He called upon the King Ahab in these words:

"You have abandoned the Lord's commandments and have followed the Baals. Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table." (6)

On Mount Carmel, he made the prophets pray to their god Baal for a fire to miraculously fall on the sacrifice they had made. The prophets prayed the whole day long, but nothing happened. When Elijah prayed to his Lord God,

"Then the fire of the Lord fell and burnt the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench." (7)



On seeing this miracle at the hands of Elijah, the people seized the false prophets and slaughtered them all. (8)

Belief in coming of a Messiah is fundamental in Jewish faith. In the Old Testament the term "Messiah" (in Greek, "Christ") means "anointed one". In antiquity, Hebrew High Priests and prophets were occasionally "anointed" to their offices, and the Israelite kings who were heads of a new dynasty were ritually anointed at the ceremony of being enthroned. The expected Messiah was, therefore, supposed to play all the three roles -- of a priest, a prophet and a king. "The Anointed of Israel" was to be a royal figure in the line of King David. He was to establish Kingdom of God on the earth, and help the Jews to observe the Law of God. He was expected to appear at a time of great predicament for Jews when they would be scattered all over the earth. He was to re-establish political sovereignty of Jews in the land of Israel, and bring all of the lost tribes back to his kingdom.

There have been several claimants to the title of Messiah, but all of them are considered to be false prophets in Jewish religious literature. When Jesus of Nazareth appeared, the majority of the Jews rejected him as a false Messiah because he did not bring the earthly kingdom back to Israel, nor did he gather the lost tribes together.



He was considered a rebellious priest gone astray who was crucified by the Romans. Despite rejection by the majority, Jesus of Nazareth was recognized as "Christ" – "the anointed one of God" by some Jews of his time who initiated Christianity. Islam also recognizes Jesus son of Mary (as) as the true Messiah of the Jews who fulfilled the Biblical prophecies, but was not acknowledged by the majority.

Two other Jewish claimants who attained the fame of being the Messiahs in their times are Shimon Bar-Kokhba and Sabbatai Zevi. Shimon Bar-Kokhba was a military leader who rebelled against the Romans in 132 C.E., and recaptured Jerusalem, taking more than 50 Roman strongholds. He claimed to be the Messiah and changed his original name Shimon Bar Kasivah to the messianic name Simon Bar-Kokhba which meant "Son of the Star". The Roman army, under the command of General Julius Severus, who was appointed by Emperor Hadrian, counter attacked and took Jerusalem back from the Jewish rebels. They completely destroyed Jewish communities, tortured the Rabbis, enslaved many Israelites, and even changed the name of the city to Aelius Hardrianus. Simon Bar-Kokhba and his army took refuge in the Judean Hills, but they were all killed by the Romans in 135 C.E. Simon Bar-Kokhba was a ruthless army leader, therefore, in the Jewish literature, such as Talmud and Midrash, he is mentioned not in favorable terms, and is called a "blood-thirsty bandit." (9)

Another false messiah for the Jews was Sabbatai Zevi (Shabbatai Zvi). He was born in Smyrus (Izmir), a city of West Turkey, in 1626 A.D. He had a charismatic personality, well-versed in Talmud and Kabbalah, practiced ascetic ways and claimed to have mystical experiences. In 1663 he moved to Jerusalem where he was recognized as the Messiah by thousands of Jews who claimed that he would liberate them from the Turkish rule. Nathan Benjamin Levi (also known as Nathan of Gaza), who had claimed to be the risen Elijah, endorsed Sabbatai Zevi as the Messiah and publicized his advent to all parts of the world where Jews were living. Nathan of Gaza gave Sabbatai Zevi a kind of international fame and thus his following spread in many faraway places like Venice and Livorno in Italy, and Amsterdam in Netherlands. Observing his rebellious popularity as the Messiah of the Jews, the Sultan of Turkey, Mehmed IV, first imprisoned him and then asked him to either accept Islam as his faith or be ready to be tortured and killed. At that time Sabbatai Zevi was only forty years old, and did not want to die. So, he became Muslim and changed his name to Aziz Mehemet Effendi. This unexpected decision on his part created a great reaction among his followers, and they started detesting him, calling him a false messiah. After that, many Jewish communities discarded the idea of any miraculous redemption through a Messiah figure, and the Reform movements started to evolve in some European countries in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and that changed the course of Jewish history. (10)



Shimon Bar-Kokhba and Sabbatai Zevi



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- [1] Deuteronomy 13:1-3
- [2] Deut. 18: 9-12
- [3] Deut. 18:20
- [4] Unger's Bible Dictionary: 'Ba'laam'
- [5] Sura 7, Al-A'raf: Ayat 176-177
- [6] 1 Kings 18:19
- [7] 1 Kings 18:38
- [8] 1 Kings 18:40
- [9] Encyclopedia of Judaism by Sara E. Karesh and Mitchell M. Hurvitz
- [10] [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sabbatai\\_Zevi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sabbatai_Zevi)



# RELIGION & SCIENCE

## Could You Get Possessed?

Zia H Shah MD, Chief Editor of the Muslim Times



We all catch common cold, flu, and other infections. Many of us get a flu shot every year for prevention, as bacteria and viruses are ubiquitous and all around us and the fear is very real.

A large majority of the Muslims also believe that demons exist and they call them by the Arabic word Jinns.

According to a 2007 Pew Research survey, two-thirds of Americans (68%) completely or mostly agree that demons are active in the world. Exorcisms are on a rise in many parts of the world especially since Pope Francis took office. Among religious groups, Mormons (88%), evangelical Christian (87%) and members of historically black churches (87%) are the most likely to agree that demons are active in the world. So, it is not fear mongering to ask a genuine question in this context, could you, me or any one of us get possessed and what can we do about it?

What makes us more likely to get possessed by demons and ghosts? Are there any risk factors? Should we avoid certain places or people to stay safe? How risky is it? How much damage demons can cause us? How do we know that we have been possessed and what can we do to get "depossession"?

If two thirds of Americans believe in demons, for them, these should be very realistic concerns, greater than terrorism, bomb threats, floods, hurricanes, car accidents and gun violence.

May be, the exorcists, who offer treatments for demonic possession, could also suggest preventive treatments and even sell insurance policies against such possessions!

In 2014, Pope Francis commended exorcist priests for their fight against "the Devil's works," saying that the Church needed to help "those possessed by evil."

"Until a few years ago, a significant number of people in the Church didn't believe in the Devil, but people are now going back to the Scriptures," said a British exorcist priest from Birmingham who asked not to be named.

"Pope Francis has given a certain amount of encouragement to that. A few years ago at least half the dioceses in England and Wales did not have an exorcist. Now, pretty much all of them do."

Italy has also witnessed a sharp rise in demand for exorcisms. The diocese of Milan recently increased the number of exorcist priests from five to 12, and the diocese of Rome doubled its team of resident exorcists to 10.

Father Truqui, 47, is the chief exorcist for the diocese of Chur, a city in eastern Switzerland, and claimed to have taken part in around 100 exorcisms. (1)

Exorcists are treating many psychological and neurological diseases. They are turning the clock back by almost 150 years. Allopathic medicine had a long struggle with the Catholic Church to bring reason and rationality to mental health and psychology, in the 19th and the 20th centuries. But, there is the famous saying, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."





In 1858 a simple peasant girl, 14-year-old, named Bernadette Soubirous, living in the small village of Lourdes in southwestern France, announced that she had seen an apparition, a supernatural appearance of mother Mary. A 'lady' dressed in white that had appeared to her and told her she wanted to convey important spiritual messages to the community. First chastised for telling tales, then examined by a medical doctor for signs of delusion or hysteria, Bernadette was eventually redeemed in the eyes of the authorities when the apparition provided various signs through the child that she was in fact the Virgin Mary, "the Immaculate Conception". The apparition then led the child to a previously unknown spring of fresh water in the back of the shrine (grotto); and almost immediately, local people began to report healings after contact with the water.

The visions were declared authentic by Pope Pius IX in 1862. In 1876 the Papacy officially recognized Lourdes as a holy place of healing and pilgrimage.

The underground spring in the grotto, revealed to Bernadette, was declared to have miraculous qualities, and Lourdes has since become a major pilgrimage center.



Miracles began to happen. More than 5,000,000 pilgrims, many of them sick or disabled, visit the site annually.

French medicine needed a strong rebuttal to the Church's views on Lourdes, and Jean-Martin Charcot was in a perfect position, on behalf of his profession, to provide one. Charcot wrote 'The Faith Cure' and arranged for it to be published simultaneously in English and French in 1892, one year before his death.

All the healings at Lourdes, extraordinary as they were, were simply evidence that the natural healing powers of the mind were far more extensive than the medical profession had previously appreciated. Why had it taken Lourdes to reveal this? Charcot focused on the remarkable features of Lourdes as a site. Its remoteness meant that all pilgrims underwent a long, arduous journey to reach it (the train trip from Paris at that time took twenty-two hours). When they finally arrived, they were exhausted and their critical faculties were diminished. Arriving at the shrine (grotto) itself, they were then immediately immersed in multiple sacred symbols of healing. Joining crowds of other believers, they were infected with the emotional contagion of collective hope. It all added up to a fabulous confluence of factors guaranteed to open the mind to any and all influences. In the words of Anne Harrington, describing the history of mind-body medicine in her recent book *The Cure Within*: "Citing a case of a patient he himself had seen who had been apparently cured of her tumors by a visit to Lourdes, Charcot argued that the conclusion was clear: either hysteria, known to respond to emotions and suggestion, was a larger category of dysfunction than had previously been thought; or else the mind could extend its influence into the workings of physiology in ways that were still not yet well understood."



Charcot coined a term 'second mind' and his description of 'second mind' grew into the concept of 'subconscious' in the hands of Sigmund Freud. The discussion of Lourdes and Jean-Martin Charcot set the stage for the description of 'subconscious' mind by Freud, who was a student of Charcot and the rest, is history.

An 18th Century Viennese medic, Erich Menninger von Lerchenthal, described how students at his medical school picked on a much-disliked assistant. Planning to teach him a lesson, they sprung upon him before announcing that he was about to be decapitated. Blindfolding him, they bowed his head onto the chopping block, before dropping a wet cloth on his neck. Convinced it was the kiss of a steel blade, the poor man “died on the spot”.

We have long known that expectations of a malady can be as dangerous as a virus. In the same way that voodoo shamans could harm their victims through the power of suggestion, priming someone to think they are ill can often produce the actual symptoms of a disease. Vomiting, dizziness, headaches, and even death, could be triggered through belief alone. It’s called the “nocebo effect.”

But it is now becoming clear just how easily those dangerous beliefs can spread through gossip and hearsay – with potent effect. It may be the reason why certain houses seem cursed with illness, and why people living near wind turbines report puzzling outbreaks of dizziness, insomnia and vomiting. If you have ever felt “fluey” after a vaccination, believed your cell phone was giving you a headache, or suffered an inexplicable food allergy, you may have also fallen victim to a nocebo jinx. “The nocebo effect shows the brain’s power,” says Dimos Mitsikostas, from Athens Naval Hospital in Greece. “And we cannot fully explain it.”(2)

If the effect of suggestion or idea is positive it is called the “placebo effect.” Expectation, good or bad, creates a self-fulfilling prophecy.

It is a scary world out there; you could be a victim of superbugs, addictions, sexually transmitted diseases, floods, hurricanes or terrorism, to name a few. But, there is one thing I can guarantee you; you cannot get possessed by demons or ghosts, for they do not exist. Scientists excluding those holding a priestly office have never found any evidence for them.

I have presented a case against existence of demons from medical science here. For the Muslim readers, now let me link a case from the Holy Qur’an as well: Jinns and Demons: A Rational Islamic Perspective. (3)



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- [2] <http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20150210-can-you-think-yourself-to-death>
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# WHO WILL DEFEAT THE DAJJAL AND HOW?

Amtul Kafi Yadullah Bhunnoo

The Holy Prophet (sa) describes a man in the following Hadith (saying):

"By the One who owns my soul, it is nigh, of a certainty, that the son of Mary will appear among you. He will be a judge, he will be just; so he will break the cross and kill the swine; and he will stop war."(1)

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad of Qadian (as) claimed in 1891 to be the Promised Messiah and Mahdi as prophesied by the Holy Prophet (sa). His purpose was to revive the true teachings of Islam and to fight Dajjal.

Dajjal are a group of people that are deceitful, cunning and full of lies; their sole purpose is power over people and material wealth. This definition fits the Western Countries of today, who have deviated away from religion and fabricated lies to fit their purpose. This means that the Promised Messiah (as) through intellectual arguments and proofs against the teachings of Christianity and beliefs, their very backbone, the symbol of their worship will be demolished, and thus completing another of the assigned task of "breaking the cross."

The killing of the swine is also metaphorical, and represents the destruction of swine like characteristics in people, the filthy minds full of greed; "the so called sexual anarchy... the disgusting debauchery which claims even innocent children as its victims."(2)

***The Promised Messiah (as) will then kill the Dajjal, not by a sword or any other weapon which what he called is Jihad-e-Sagheera (smaller Jihad) but through Jihad-e-Kabeera (greater Jihad) or famously known as "Jihad of the Pen". This Jihad is the refutation of lies fabricated by the Dajjal specifically against Islam.(3)***

The Dajjal is a staunch enemy of Islam, which can be apparent by the rise of Islamophobia in the world today. Islam is being targeted to be obliterated from the face of the Earth.

The Promised Messiah (as) passed away in 1908, and just like Jesus (as) had a handful of followers in his time but today it is an army of righteous people, which he named the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. Continuing the mission of the Promised Messiah (as) are his Khulafa or successors, of which the present one, the fifth successor is Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba), the worldwide spiritual leader of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.



Sadly Muslims of today have joined hands with Dajjal, making the task more difficult for a true Muslim. Muslims today insist on seeing the Promised Messiah descend from heavens on a white minaret with his hands on the wings of two angels. They are making the same mistake made by the Jews. The Jews were waiting for two separate personages, of which one would be "a priestly Messiah (equivalent of Islamic Mahdi) and a warrior Messiah, a king who would come and deliver Israelite from the bondage of slavery."(4) When Jesus (as) claimed to have fulfilled this personage, he was rejected, mocked, and had to face many atrocities as did his followers. Today the Mullahs (clergy) are trying to defame the Promised Messiah (as) in the same manner as it was done for Jesus (as) along with committing crimes against his disciples.

Dajjal's strength is the left eye, the worldly eye that grips the world underneath their foot and oppresses people under their command; to not think or see from both eyes, especially the right eye.(5) The right eye is our strength, the eye that sees the truth, the meaning of life, the purpose of our being. To kill Dajjal, its very foundation has to be shaken, and people have to be awakened from the lies.



False arguments are being spun against the members of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community; the same kind being written and spread by the Dajjal against Islam in order to defame it. The general public is vulnerable to their lies and those who associate themselves as “intellectuals” are prone to the lies of “modern thinkers”.(6)

Dajjal is trying to strengthen its grip by making women feel the need to work like a man and disregard their duties, especially their religious and moral duties to God, all in the name of so-called equality. Advertisements are being broadcast to emphasize the idea of outward and physical beauty. Women are encouraged to wear whatever clothing they desire with no regards to modesty. On the contrary a Muslim woman is mocked for her “oppressive clothing” which she may have chosen to don by herself but does not hold the right to wear in the “modern society”. Women should be made aware that this is not happening to give them equality but it is a marketing strategy to commercialise everything, including every part of their body. Beautiful women tend to increase the rate of sales, thus the need to employ them is valued regardless of their intellect. Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba) reminded women not to be negligent of their knowledge of Islam as this can cause them to fall under the spells of the Dajjal.(7)

The rise of mass migration of Syrian refugees to Europe shows the state of other Muslim countries as well, who cannot help their own people, all due to the power of Dajjal. Muslims are becoming weak and poor, which is another sign of the time of Dajjal(8) Double standard of the society is that with the rise of political correctness, nothing can be said against certain groups of people but everything can be said to mock Islam. We are all becoming robots that create materialistic things regardless of gender, race, and health to satisfy and please the Dajjal. During slavery, the master did not care who is a man or a woman, who is old or young, who is sick or in good health. They wanted profits, and that is what is happening again.

Another problem is that a growing population of people are both making and following YouTube accounts, Muslim men dressing up as women, playing pranks for laughter, in the name of entertainment; all for fame, money and power. Sin is being accepted through false arguments, pressure from society and greed. Youngsters are approving it all as it makes them happy and takes them to a pseudo-world, away from where they are not being given the due love and attention. Ahmadi Muslim youth are protected from such evils through Waqf-e-Nau (New Devotee) classes and constant community work involvement.





It is needed to be understood that the rise of atheism in the world today is due to false beliefs of Christianity through which other religions are facing a challenge from these “intellectuals” who are looking at religion, and especially Islam from these same lens. Church leaders are changing their beliefs in order to please the people and amass them in churches that do not serve God or help mankind but only their superficial interests. People are losing the ability to think for themselves, while they are just relying on the media to tell them what to believe. Muslims only listen to “Ulema” (religious scholars) and do not bother to obey the first word revealed to the Holy Prophet (sa), which was ‘Iqra’ which means “read”. The rise of ISIS is due to the misguided thought that they can make an Islamic state and have a Khalifa, yet not bothering to follow the real teachings of Islam. Muslims are unaware of their own history, the history of Islam, and the inventions by great Muslim scientists which should make them proud of their identity as Muslims.

The Promised Messiah (as) wrote over 80 books in his lifetime defending Islam, dispelling myths, and bringing many hidden meanings of the Holy Qur’an to the forefront which no one understood before. The signs are so apparent that when more and more people will read them, they will run to Islam Ahmadiyya in acceptance and to shelter themselves from the evils of Dajjal. Many Arabs are waking up and accepting Islam Ahmadiyya as signs are becoming more apparent to them; the distress and concern for the world are leading them towards the real Islam, which shows that Allah is guiding them as He says in the Holy Qur’an “surely the help of Allah is near.”(9)

If the Messiah had not come, the Muslims would have been wiped out, lost with all hope and would have been helpless. Any hope that remains for the world is through the sheer grace of God Who appointed the Promised Messiah (as) and his Khulafa to continue fighting the Dajjal. No battle is ever carried out without a plan, and a battle against the “giant” Dajjal, cannot be won by physical weapons when in his grip are innocent people who he has led astray; they have to be saved. Dajjal uses lies to manipulate people whereas the strategy of God is to make them aware of the truth. We have to instil the love of reading especially of the Holy Qur’an in people, we have to promote and make people aware of Muslim Television Ahmadiyya (MTA) international channel. We have to inculcate love for each other in this society that is being deceived into caving into the idea of individuality, to do as you please, and be free, all whilst the individual is tracked and restricted.

It is indeed even more important to educate ourselves in religion and research every aspect of wonder and pray. We need all Ahmadi Muslims to go out into the society, spread the true message of Islam, dialogue with people, and open their hearts through sharing and caring. The greeting of Islam, Assalam-o-alaikum (peace be upon you) is a way of spreading the message of peace itself, and to raise awareness of the meaning of Islam, the religion of peace, the true way of life.

It is important to remember that the Holy Prophet Muhammad (sa) said that in order to protect oneself from the evils of the Dajjal, we must recite the first and last ten verses of Surah Al- Kahf.(10)

Hazrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad (aba) has also laid emphasis on praying a lot and that “we form our lives according to the wishes of the Promised Messiah (as) and move towards piety. May we not let the prayers of the Promised Messiah (as) go to waste; rather may we ever be the recipients of the prayers that he made for his community, Amin”(11)



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Hazrat Abu Bakrah (ra) relates that the Messenger (sa) of Allah said: "The Antichrist is blind of his right eye. Between the two eyes of the Antichrist will be written, 'disbeliever', which both the literate and the illiterate would be able to read."

(Musnad Ahmad, p 38/5)

Narrated Hazrat Aishah (ra): "I heard Allah's Messenger (sa) in his Salat, seeking refuge with Allah from the Fitnah of 'Ad-Dajjal"

(Sahih Bukhari. Book of Al-Fitan)

Hazrat Abu Hurairah(ra) relates that the Messengers of Allah said: "Doomsday will be at the time when two very large groups will cause a fierce war among themselves because of the same claim. Thus, there will appear about thirty Dajjals (Antichrists) and each of them will claim to be a Messenger of Allah. Knowledge will disappear. There will be many earthquakes. Time will appear to pass very quickly and disorder will be common. Al-Haraj, i.e., massacres will be common. Wealth, among you, will be in such abundance that a wealthy man has to look for one who may accept his charity. Anyone to whom a person will give charity will respond that he has no need for it. People will try to excel one another in building the tallest buildings. A person passing by someone's grave will wish that he had been buried in that grave. The sun will rise from the West, and all the people will believe (embrace Islam). This will be the time when believing will be of no use to a soul if it had not already believed nor had earned goodness through its Faith. Doomsday will arrive so fast that two men who had spread a piece of cloth to bargain the price will not be able to finish the deal or roll the cloth. Doomsday will arrive so fast that the one who is milking his she-camel will not have time to drink the milk. Dooms day will arrive so fast that the one who is fixing his water reservoir will not be able to fill it with water. Doomsday will arrive so fast that the one who has brought a morsel of food close to his mouth will not be able to eat it."

(Bukhari kitabul fitn bab kharujannar)

HAQITH  
SAYINGS OF THE  
**PROPHET**  
MUHAMMAD(sa)



# NEWS VIEWS, '& REVIEWS

**Newsweek**

## U.S. Muslim Group Launches Campaign to Reclaim the Meaning of 'True Islam' From Extremists

By Lucy Westcott On 12/30/15 at 4:04 PM

The campaign has been in development for several months and the group has reached out to more than 2,000 American Muslim leaders. But President Barack Obama's call earlier this month to the Muslim community to "confront, without excuse" the "real problem" of extremist ideology within Islam accelerated the effort, says Qasim Rashid, national spokesperson at the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA.

The first point says Islam "is a religion that wholly rejects terrorism" and the document also includes principles such as belief in the equality of women, loyalty to the country of residence and freedom of conscience, religion and speech. These are some of the most common misconceptions about Islam and points extremist groups use to radicalize young people, says Rashid.

Terrorism is at the top of the list because "it's a very timely topic, but unfortunately a lot of Americans associate Islam with terrorism," says Rashid. "We wanted to nip that in the bud."

The main goal of the True Islam campaign is to strengthen unity between Muslims and non-Muslims in America against violent extremism, which in turn will improve national security, says Rashid. The campaign's website lets people endorse principles they support and encourages them to share it publicly; as of Wednesday afternoon, more than 1,000 people, from Kathmandu to Kansas City, have endorsed the principles.

"Our response is not to play the victim card," Rashid, 33, tells Newsweek. "We see this as an opportunity to work even harder." As part of the campaign, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community plans to open mosques to the public and send free Korans with English translation to anyone who requests one. "People are requesting Korans in hordes," says Rashid.

This year has been a violent one—notable incidents include the shooting in San Bernardino, California, that killed 14 people as well as the shooting and suicide-bomb attacks in Paris—and it has created a particularly hostile environment for American Muslims. The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) said earlier this month that attacks on U.S. mosques this year were at an all-time high and November 2015 saw a "significant spike," with 17 incidents of damage, destruction and vandalism against mosques. The majority of those attacks occurred after the November 13 Paris attacks, in which Islamist militants killed 130 people in public places across the French capital, according to CAIR.

Kashif Chaudhry, a cardiovascular medicine fellow at the Lahey Hospital and Medical Center in Burlington, Massachusetts, belongs to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and has endorsed all 11 points online. Originally from Pakistan, he says he feels an extra responsibility to speak up as Pakistan is a country where "extremism is rife." Tashfeen Malik, who carried out the San Bernardino shooting with her husband, Syed Rizwan Farook, was originally from Pakistan.

"There is a minority of Muslims that fall prey to the propaganda," says Chaudhry. "There's no way they can fall for the propaganda, it's all covered in these 11 points."



 **True Islam**   
@TrueIslamUSA

 Follow

.@SBPDChief endorsed our campaign. Join him and hundreds of others at [bit.ly/1NKS2TT](http://bit.ly/1NKS2TT)

12:12 PM - 28 Dec 2015

The campaign was formally launched at the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community's annual Jalsa Salana West Coast conference in California, which took place over the weekend. San Bernardino Police Chief Jarrod Burguan attended the conference and said the shooting in the city will forever be entrenched in the history of Southern California.

"These two people [the San Bernardino shooters], they started this story and they started a dialogue in this community and a dialogue in this country. They played their part and their part was very horrific," Burguan said in an interview with Ahsan Mahmood Khan, president of the Los Angeles East Chapter of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA, during the conference. "But the recovery of this, the aftermath of this, the resiliency of the community, the support that has poured in and the rebuilding is all our job."

On Tuesday, ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi released a video calling on the world's Muslims to join the group as it loses ground in Ramadi and faces airstrikes and fighting from multiple armies. Twitter users mocked his call to arms and tweeted reasons why they couldn't sign up, ranging from the Boxing Day retail sales in the U.K. to the lure of binge-watching shows on Netflix and an 8 p.m. curfew.

This article originally incorrectly stated that Ahsan Mahmood Khan is the president of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA. Khan is the president of the Los Angeles East Chapter of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community USA.

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## Deleting genes could boost lifespan by 60 per cent, say scientists

**The Telegraph**

The secret of extending life by decades may lie in switching off certain genes, scientists believe, after showing that small genetic tweaks can make organisms live 60 per cent longer. Ten years of research by the Buck Institute for Research on Ageing and the University of Washington has identified 238 genes that, when silenced, increase the lifespan of yeast cells. Many of the genes are present in mammals, including humans, suggesting that switching them off could dramatically increase lifespan.

"This study looks at aging in the context of the whole genome and gives us a more complete picture of what aging is," said lead author Dr. Brian Kennedy.

"Almost half of the genes we found that affect aging are conserved in mammals.



"In theory, any of these factors could be therapeutic targets to extend healthspan. What we have to do now is figure out which ones are amenable to targeting."

To determine which genes were responsible for ageing, researchers examined 4,698 strains of yeast, each with a single gene deletion and then monitored how long cells lived for before they stopped dividing.

They found that deleting a gene called LOS1 produced particularly impressive results, extending life by 60 per cent. LOS1 is linked to a genetic master switch which has long been associated with calorie restriction through fasting and increased lifespan.

"Calorie restriction has been known to extend lifespan for a long time," added Dr. Kennedy.

Co-author Dr Mark McCormick, of the Buck Institute said: "Our best results were single gene deletions that increased lifespan by around 60 per cent compared to normal yeast."

Earlier this year academics from the University of Southern California found that a five day diet which mimics fasting can slow down ageing, add years to life, boost the immune system and cut the risk of heart disease and cancer.

The plan restricts calories to between one third and a half of normal intake.

Last year the same team discovered that fasting can regenerate the entire immune system, bringing a host of long-term health benefits.

When humans tested out the regimen, within three months they had reduced biomarkers linked to ageing, diabetes, cancer and heart disease as well as cutting overall body fat. The researchers think it works by slashing a hormone which encourages growth, and has been linked to cancer susceptibility. Essentially it tricks the body into ageing more slowly. The new study was published in the journal *Cell Metabolism*. (The Telegraph)





# Women's Corner

## Piously Powerful: The Original Muslim Women

By Najia Humayun

### Pre-Conceived Notions

The Muslim woman has become an elusive concept to many, shrouded by her veil and enveloped in a life of oppressive silence. Yet this is untrue on many dimensions. Let us take a look at the plane of time. In the past, present, and likely in the future, real Muslim women defied and will continue to defy these stereotypes. One way to dispel these stereotypes is to look at women mentioned in the Holy Qur'an

The Holy Qur'an includes verses which directly address womankind. Not to mention that two women who are explicitly referred to in the Qur'an as examples of piety for all mankind—Mary mother of Jesus(as) and Asiya wife of the Pharaoh. The status given to women by these direct references along with the precedents that these two women set are indicative of the unequivocal equality and empowered status granted to Muslim women by the Holy Qur'an over 1400 years ago.

### Equality in the eyes of the Creator

One of the most powerful and often cited references to the fundamental equality of men and women in the Holy Qur'an reads, (1)

"Surely, men who submit themselves to God and women who submit themselves to Him, and believing men and believing women, and obedient men and obedient women and truthful men and truthful women, and men steadfast in their faith and steadfast women, and men who are humble and women who are humble, and men who give alms and women who give alms, and men who fast and women who fast, and men who guard their chastity and women who guard their chastity, and men who remember Allah much and women who remember Him — Allah has prepared for all of them forgiveness and a great reward."



This verse establishes the spiritual equality of men and women, claiming that their actions merit the same reception from God. Women likewise enjoy political and social rights at par with those of men.

Critics who claim that Islam grants women a status inferior to men are perhaps misinterpreting the different roles assigned to men and women in the Qur'an. As the English short commentary of the Holy Qur'an edited by Malik Ghulam Farid aptly depicts, "only their spheres of activities being different, their duties are different. It is this difference which has mistakenly, or perhaps deliberately, been misunderstood by hostile critics of Islam as implying a lower status for women".

Another potent reference to the equality of the rights of women and men found in the Holy Qur'an, says, "Whoso acts righteously, whether male or female and is a believer, We will surely grant him a pure life; and We will surely bestow on such their reward according to the best of their works." (2)

This verse affirms that women and men alike will receive rewards for their good works without discrimination. In the eyes of the Creator, both genders are inherently equal and capable of attaining salvation.

### Mary mother of Jesus in Qur'an

Chapter 19 of the Holy Qur'an is named "Maryam" after Mary, mother of Jesus. It is one of many chapters in the Qur'an in which she is mentioned as an example of piety not only for women—but for all mankind.

Surah Al-Anbiya, Chapter 21 verse 92 says,

**"And remember her who guarded her chastity, so We breathed into her of Our Word and We made her and her son a Sign for all peoples." (3)**

As a woman, Mary was subjected to an immense trial when she was pregnant with Jesus (as). Yet she was also a part of a blessed scheme as the mother of the Messiah, and her patience and faith in the will of God enabled her to realize that. The story of Mary is a sign and a reference for a righteous class of today's believers. As outlined in the short commentary of the Holy Qur'an referenced earlier, "Everyone of such righteous believers, so to say, is Mary, and when God breathes into him of His spirit he becomes a 'son of Mary', i.e., he acquires the Divine attributes possessed by Jesus".

Surah Al-Tahrim, Chapter 66 verse 13, states,

**"And sets forth as an example Mary, the daughter of Imran, who guarded her chastity—so We breathed into him of Our Spirit—and she fulfilled the prophecy conveyed to her in the words of her Lord contained in His books and she was one of the obedient."(4)**

This verse clarifies Mary's exalted status as an example for all Muslims to follow, for her obedience throughout trials, and her humble strength.

### The wife of Pharaoh

The wife of Pharaoh is mentioned in parallel to Mary, in verse 12 of Chapter 66 which reads, "And Allah holds forth as an example, for those who believe, the wife of Pharaoh when she said, 'My Lord! build for me a house with Thee in the Garden; and deliver me from Pharaoh and his work, and deliver me from the wrongdoing people;". She is also referred to as an example for women and men alike to follow.

The actions which led to her attaining this exalted status are outlined in Surah Al-Qasas, Chapter 28 verse 10, which states, "And Pharaoh's wife said, 'He will be a joy of the eye for me and for thee. Slay him not. Haply he may prove to be useful for us, or we may adopt him as a son.' And they knew not Our purpose." She was a woman willing to stand up to her husband's declared intentions of slaughtering the sons of the Israelites to keep them suppressed. She remained steadfast notwithstanding the tribulations of the Pharaoh. Despite being surrounded by sins and oppressive behavior, she remained steadfast, making her an example for the class of believers who may be struggling with their faith today.

Like Mary, Pharaoh's wife was humble, yet willing to stand tall with faith of Allah in the face of trials.

### Conclusion

Both Mary and Asiya (wife of the pharaoh) were pious yet powerful. They were never self-righteous and were accepting of the will of God. Yet they were also powerful, not backing down when they knew they were doing God's will.

This piece was meant to provide a basic glimpse into just a few of the many references to women in the Holy Qur'an. Despite what has been referred to here, so much remains to be unpacked from the treasure of this holy book.

The examples of two women expounded upon here along with the references to women's equality with man in the Qur'an make it evident that Muslim women have inalienable rights which no individual or institution could ever strip them of. Muslim women are made aware that they do not need to ask for rights that they were born with. These rights are undeniably their very own.



### Reference:

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- [2] The Holy Qur'an, Chapter: 16, Verse: 98
- [3] Surah Al-Anbiya, Chapter: 21, Verse: 92
- [4] The Holy Qur'an, Chapter: 66, Verse: 13



# FROM THE ARCHIVE

## ***The Time of the Mahdi's Advent***

***Excerpts from a letter, written by  
Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan, to the  
heads of several countries. .***

The Holy Prophet (sa) clearly indicated the time of the advent of the Mahdi, in a manner that cannot be gainsaid. He announced:

“There are two signs of our Mahdi which have never been manifested for any claimant since the creation of the heaven and earth. They are that the moon will be eclipsed in the month of Ramadan on the first of the nights appointed for its eclipse, and that the sun will be eclipsed in the same month of Ramadan on the middle one of the days appointed for its eclipse.”(1)

This meant that the advent of the Mahdi, designated by the Holy Prophet (sa), as our Mahdi, would be marked by the eclipse of the moon in the month of Ramadan on its thirteenth night, and the eclipse of the sun in the same month of Ramadan fifteen days later, as the lunar eclipse occurs on the 13th, 14th, or 15th night of the moon and the solar eclipse occurs on one of the last three days of the month. This particular phenomenon manifested itself in the eastern hemisphere in respect of the moon on 21st March and in respect of the sun on 6th April, 1894 and was repeated in the western hemisphere in 1895.

## **The Impact of the Eclipse Phenomenon**

This manifestation calls for serious reflection. In one aspect it was a manifestation which was determined by the law governing the movement of the planets, and there was no room in it for human intervention; yet in another aspect it was a grand sign in support of the truth of the Holy Prophet (sa). He could not have known or guessed that such a manifestation would take place 1260 year after his death. Even if such a manifestation had occurred by itself, its prediction twelve and a half centuries earlier would have been conclusive proof of the truth of the Holy Prophet (sa). But it did not stand alone. It had another splendid and glorious aspect.

Muslim Sunrise March of 1984

Its occurrence was to serve as a warning that the Mahdi had appeared and that those who were awaiting his advent should seek him, accept him and obey him so that they might thus participate in the glorious revival of Islam which God had decreed would be achieved through that devoted servant of the Holy Prophet (sa), the Mahdi and his followers. If despite this manifestation it was found that the Mahdi had not appeared, the truth of the Holy Prophet (sa) would have been questioned by the opponents of Islam and of the Holy Prophet (sa). But it was found that before this manifestation a devoted servant of the Holy Prophet (sa) who led a pure and blameless life in accord with the teachings of Islam, and who was a constant recipient of Divine revelation, had under Divine command, proclaimed that he was the Mahdi, the manifestation would be hailed as a conclusive and glorious confirmation of the truth of the Holy Prophet (sa) and of such a claimant and of Islam.

## **Two Signs of the Mahdi's Advent**

As has been mentioned, the two signs of the advent of the Mahdi which had been proclaimed by the Holy Prophet (sa) were clearly manifested a little more than three years after Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) announced his claim of being the Mahdi – a clear proof of the truth of his claim. It is noteworthy that the fourteenth century has passed without anyone beside Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) claiming to be the Mahdi whose advent had been foretold by the Holy Prophet (sa). His rejection, therefore, would amount to the rejection of a grand prophecy of the Holy Prophet (sa) and would furnish the opponents of Islam with an excuse to question the truth of the Holy Prophet (sa), which must be avoided.

The two signs announced by the Holy Prophet (sa) are not, however, the only conclusive proof of the truth of the claim of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as). There are many others, too numerous to be set out in a brief statement like this one. Mention may be made of one or two fundamental ones.



The crucial question is that Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) affirmed that from about his fortieth year he had been a constant recipient of Divine revelation. If this affirmation of his was true, it must necessarily follow that all his claims based on Divine revelation, or derived from it, were true and must be accepted. If his affirmation was false, he was an imposter and he must be condemned as such.

### The Criterion of a Righteous Life

One criterion that the Holy Quran has laid down for determining the truth or falsehood of a claimant of the recipient of revelation is expressed as follows:

“Say to them: Had Allah so willed, I would not have recited it (the Quran) to you, nor would He have made it known to you. I have spent a whole life time among you before this; will you not then understand.” (2)

The attention of the disbelievers is here drawn to the utter purity of the Holy Prophet’s(sa) life even before the Divine call came to him, so as to impress upon them that he who had throughout led a righteous life would not suddenly, on arriving at full maturity, start fabricating lies against God.

In the case of Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as) also, in the revelation vouchsafed to him, God Almighty invited attention to the purity of his life from the very beginning as proof of the truth of his claim, in the same words as had been employed in the Holy Qur’an with reference to the Holy Prophet (sa), namely:

“I have spent a whole life time among you before this; will you not then understand.”(3)

He himself invited attention to the purity of his life in the following words:

“You cannot point to any fault, imposture, falsehood or deceit in my previous life so that you could say that one who was already given to falsehood and imposture had only added to his previous falsehoods another imposture. Which of you can criticize anything in my previous life? It is the grace of God that from the very beginning He established my life along the lines of righteousness. This is a proof for those who reflect.”(4)

Throughout his life none ever charged him with uttering a falsehood. It is not to be imagined, therefore, that the one who was so wholly committed to the truth in all aspects of his life would be guilty of the heinous falsehood that God spoke to him, if in fact he did not.

### Consequences of Fabrication

All Muslims believe firmly that according to the Holy Qur’an a person who fabricates something himself and attributes it to God cannot flourish at all and is bound to be frustrated and ruined by God. This doctrine is based upon the following verses of the Holy Qur’an:

“Had he (Muhammad) fabricated any saying and attributed to Us, We would surely have seized him by the right hand and then surely We would have severed his large artery; and not one of you could have hindered us.” (5)

This is an awesome warning to every daring imposter. A person wholly misguided or out of his mind, might claim that he is God and may suffer no visible harm. The Divine mercy may be pleased to overlook his aberration, in as much as such a claim is not likely to mislead or confuse any sensible person. The case is entirely different where a person claims to be the recipient of Divine revelation. If his claim is false and he persists in it deliberately, he might become the cause of the error and misguidance of a large number of people. God Almighty has, therefore, set forth in these verses His firm and clear warning that an imposter would not escape His wrath and His chastisement.

Since the time of the Holy Prophet(sa) there have appeared many false claimants of the receipt of Divine revelation and in no single instance has any of them escaped the doom that is pronounced in these verses. In every case Divine judgment has overtaken the offender and he has been visibly ruined.

Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad(as) was the constant recipient of Divine revelation over a period well beyond thirty years. The revelation vouchsafed to him carried with itself numberless proofs of its genuineness and truth. It was replete with grand prophecies, spiritual insights, knowledge of things Divine – hidden and overt, glad tidings and warnings for friend and foe and spiritual guidance at the highest level.

### Other Signs of the Messiah’s Advent

The Holy Prophet (sa) had said:

“In his second advent the Messiah would defend Islam, break the cross and kill the swine.”(6)

This prophecy of the Holy Prophet (sa) was fulfilled in a striking manner by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as), who was designated by God in one of the revelations vouchsafed to him as the champion of Allah in the mantles of the Prophets.(7) His outstanding defense of Islam is acknowledged even by his opponents. He effectively exposed the falsity of the Christian

affirmation that Jesus had died upon the cross and thus destroyed the entire basis of the doctrines of the atonement, resurrection and physical ascension to heaven. Under Divine direction he was able to demonstrate that having been delivered from the cross, and having met his disciples many times in his physical body, he parted from them and travelled through the countries in which the so called lost tribes of Israel were scattered after the Babylonian captivity and eventually settled in Kashmir where he died and was buried in Khanyar, a suburb of Srinagar. He set all this out in his book, *Masih Hindustan Main* (Jesus in India). Since the publication of that book, the tomb of Jesus in Srinagar has become a shrine and a place of pilgrimage. In consequence of the exposure of the myth of the death of Jesus upon the cross by Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad (as), the doctrine of the Divinity of Jesus (as) is being described as a myth by some dignitaries of the Church. The cross has been effectively broken.

## Conclusion

The basic cause of the malaise that afflicts the Muslims is their turning away from Allah, and their pursuit of self-devised remedies. The true and effective remedy is that they must turn to Allah and hold fast to Him and follow in every respect His design rather than their own devices.

May Allah of His mercy and Grace, enable us to embrace humbly and sincerely the guidance that He has provided for us so that we may become His instruments for the consummation of the glorious supremacy of Islam, Amen.



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- [1] Sunun Dar Qutni, Vol. I, p188
- [2] The Holy Qur'an, Chapter: 10 [Yunus], Verse:17
- [3] Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani, *Nazoolul Masih*, p212
- [4] Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani, *Tadhkiratush Shahadatain*, p62
- [5] The Holy Qur'an, Chapter: 69 [Al-Haqqah], Verses: 45-48
- [6] Abu Daud, *Book of Al-Malaham*, Chapter: *Khurujud-Dajjal*
- [7] Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad Qadiani, *Tadhkirah*, p.148



# Questions & Answers

## ***What is the difference between Dajjal and Gog and Magog?***

The Holy Prophet (sa) is reported to have said that the recitation of the first and last ten verses of the Surah Al'Kahf makes one secure against the spiritual onslaught of the Dajjal. This shows that the Dajjal and Gog and Magog are one and the same people - Christian nations of the West - the Dajjal representing their pernicious religious propaganda against Islam, and Gog and Magog their material and political power and predominance. (1)

## ***What does "Donkey of the Anti-Christ" mean?***

Some novel features of this symbolic donkey of the anti-Christ are described in great detail in various books of traditions. Some of these are:

1. Like his donkey, the anti-Christ himself would be so massive and gigantic that a monster like him has not even been heard of in the most bizarre tales of fantasy. He would be so tall that his head would seem to disappear beyond the clouds. He will be so immensely powerful that he would conquer the whole world single-handedly.

2. Despite all these physical advantages, the one blemish that he would be blighted with would be the total loss of one eye, the right eye for that matter.

3. This donkey would not merely be a personal mount of the anti-Christ, but would also be made freely available as a means of public transport. People will climb into his belly from the opening on the side provided specifically for this purpose.

4. The belly will be well lit within and equipped with comfortable seats.

5. The donkey would move at exceptionally fast speeds covering long distances in a matter of days or hours which ordinary animal mounts take months to cover.

6. He would have regular stops on its way. At every stop the public would be invited to come and be seated before they resume their journey and every departure would be announced loudly. Thus, the metaphorical donkey would continuously travel from place to place providing people with a fast, convenient and comfortable means of transport.

7. The passengers travelling in the belly would in no way be scorched by the fire he had eaten indicating that the seating compartment in his belly would be fully insulated from the fire chamber.



8.This donkey will also be able to travel by sea and move from continent to continent riding the ocean waves.

9.During his journey by sea, he would somehow swell to a much larger size. Thus, he will be able to transport mountains of food upon his back across the oceans. Many a time he will be employed to deliver these enormous food supplies to such poor nations as abjectly bow to the will of the anti-Christ.

10.The amazing donkey would also know how to fly because some of his gigantic leaps are described to cover distances between East and West. It is said that one foot of the beast will be in the East and the other in the West. It means he would take off from one continent and land in another.

11.In the air, he will move above the level of the clouds.

12.On his forehead, he would carry the moon. Apparently, the moon refers to the headlights which most modern vehicles are equipped with.

After reading this vivid description of the donkey of the anti-Christ, which he would use for his world conquest, one does not need further assistance to recognize him. Obviously such great Christian powers are mentioned under the title Dajjal as were destined one day to command the entire world.(2)



#### References:

- [1] The Holy Qur'an, Arabic Text with English Translation & Short Commentary, Edited by Malik Ghulam Farid. 2003 edition, p 573
- [2] Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad, Revelation Rationality Knowledge and Truth, 1998 edition, Pp 607-709

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